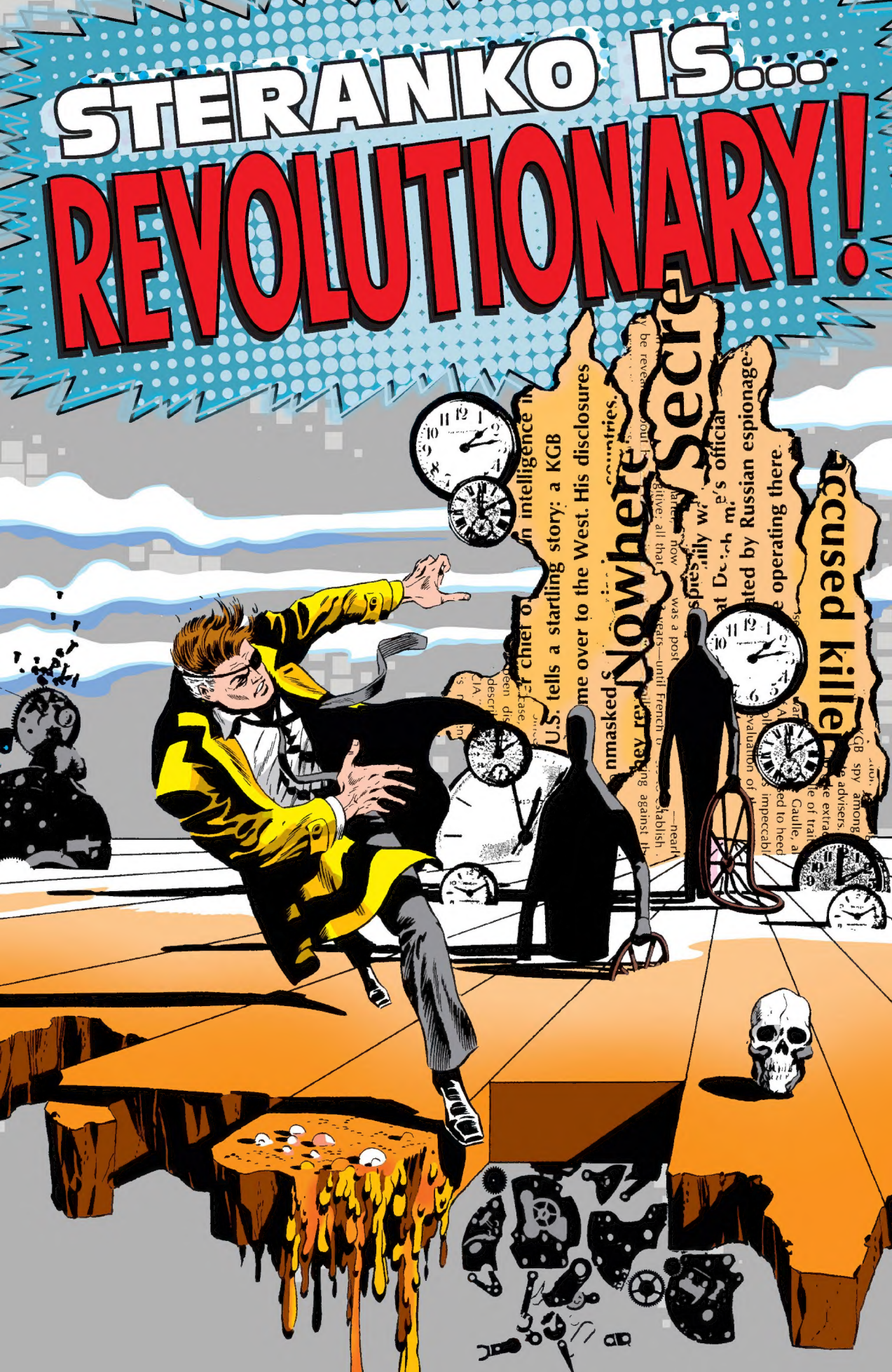
# STERANKO IS...

# REVOLUTIONARY!

JAUNTY JIM STERANKO

MARVEL

COLLECTING STERANKO'S COMPLETE NICK FURY, AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D.!


STERANKO IS...
REVOLUTIONARY!
Nowhere
accused killer

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STAN LEE & JACK KIRBY


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# INTRODUCTION BY HOWARD CHAYKIN

**A FEW YEARS BACK,** I wrote the introduction to the first volume of a collection of Milton Caniff's masterpiece, *Terry and the Pirates*. I started that introduction with one word…

…PATIENCE.

I offer this word to you here, today, in regard to this massive volume you hold in your hand. To be clear, and to be fair, this work isn't in the class of that immortal classic…but to my teenaged eyes, this work—certainly the work Jim Steranko did without Jack Kirby's layouts—created, in the words of Robert Hughes in an entirely other but oddly related and relevant context, "The Shock of the New."

I don't have any specific recollection of my contemporary boy's reaction to those three issues of *Strange Tales* on which Steranko did finishes over Kirby's layouts, but looking at them today, they seem incomplete.

Maybe it's just me, but I can almost feel the restraint placed on Steranko's shoulders on these pages.

And then, with issue #154, everything changes.

It does no disservice to the work that Steranko did here and on his other work for Marvel on *Captain America* to point out the obvious commitment to toeing the line of the Kirby house style.

Everybody who produced artwork for Marvel comics in those days was expected to do their own variation on Kirby. I thought for a while that this was a classic "…Needless to say…" but in our historically incurious, not to say culturally, amnesiac culture, of which comics is a reflection, there's danger in presuming the reader has any clue of what existed in a time before their birth, let alone a time before their interest in the material first emerged.

That said, from the beginning to the end of his tenure at Marvel, Jim Steranko certainly serviced that house style…while, simultaneously introducing elements of graphic design, advertising and editorial illustration to mainstream comics that had never been seen before.

Steranko was changing the way comics were delivered, certainly in the visual sense.

The drawing becomes a lot slicker, a tad more polished and definitely more consistent as the work progresses over the barely year and a half of his run on the feature—but the radical experimentation of layout, panel breakdown, and image juxtaposition profoundly overpowers whatever deficiencies may drag down the draftsmanship in a tour de force of style that can barely contain itself, shearing off in every direction at once.

The pages are possessed with a manic approach to narrative that may seem familiar to the reader of today, having spent years staring at work influenced by this material, but believe you me—this was the vanguard of a new approach, a clarion call to a new generation of talent, myself included, who saw in this the comic book equivalent of what those GI Jazz fans, returning to the states after the Second World War, heard in the rush of previously unheard sounds of bebop and progressive jazz.

*Entre nous*, Jim Steranko has two of the best ears for jazz in the business, and I owe him for introducing me, a few years back, to an artist I had previously discounted.

As ever, I digress.

And, to be sure, none of this addresses the introduction of a number of hitherto unexplored techniques, frankly regarded as impossible, frequently testing the very boundaries of the lousy reproduction of that era, that don't merely point at the future…

…These pages grab that future by the short hairs and drag it into the now.

The influences of artists, designers and filmmakers of that era, and of the time that preceded it, all show up in this work. Warhol, Escher, Dalí, Hohlwein from the gallery…Peak, Whitcomb, Parker from the slick magazines…

…And, of course, Eisner, Kirby, Sprang, Kurtzman and Krigstein from comic books.

Now, naturally being a product of one's influences is nothing new, and it certainly wasn't novel then.

What makes this work worthy of standing up and taking notice, above and beyond its near hysterical and explosive energy, boils down, for me at least to the nearly seamless weaving together of, to my mind, two nearly antithetical points of view, derived from two vastly different talents.

No one—certainly no one in their right mind—could, before this work appeared, have imagined a successful synergy, an effective synthesis of the hyperbolically explosive and operatic approach of Jack Kirby and the studied, nearly methodical and mannered narrative manifested by Bernard Krigstein.

But Jim Steranko imagined this, and then did it. And I think I know why he was the first to make this apparently unstable connection, and possibly why he was able to make it work.

One cannot forget or discount the fact that before Jim Steranko became a comic book artist, he was a serious comic book dealer and collector…a member of that mini generation of men and women born just before the Second World War.

With only a few exceptions, that crew—Roy Thomas, Archie Goodwin, Flo Steinberg and Neal Adams—were comic book fans who grew up reading the work of men and women born in the 1920s and ended up becoming professionals—or, as it was said back then, "going pro…" in the mid to late 1960s.

All these people had their own spheres of interests, but it's abundantly clear that of all of them, it was Steranko who was catholically informed of everything that comics, from its inception to that morning, had to offer…and he fed that enthusiasm for our curious medium into what must be acknowledged as game-changing work.

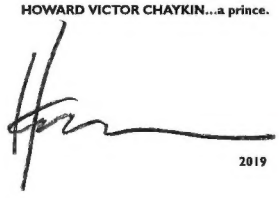
And finally, the stories. I'm reminded of the old defensive saw, "You had to be there." The S.H.I.E.L.D. comics were just one of the slew of pop narratives popular in the wake of the increasingly absurd '60s superspy craze that burned bright and died with a thud.

It isn't the story being told here that validates this legendary run of breathtakingly exciting, vital and vibrant comics from a half century ago.

Rather, it's how that story is told—the layout, the panel breakdown, the use of space to imply and control time—that keeps this work alive, vital and influential.

Thanks for your attention, and enjoy this volume of work that inspired a generation.

**As ever, I remain,**
**HOWARD VICTOR CHAYKIN…a prince.**



**2019**

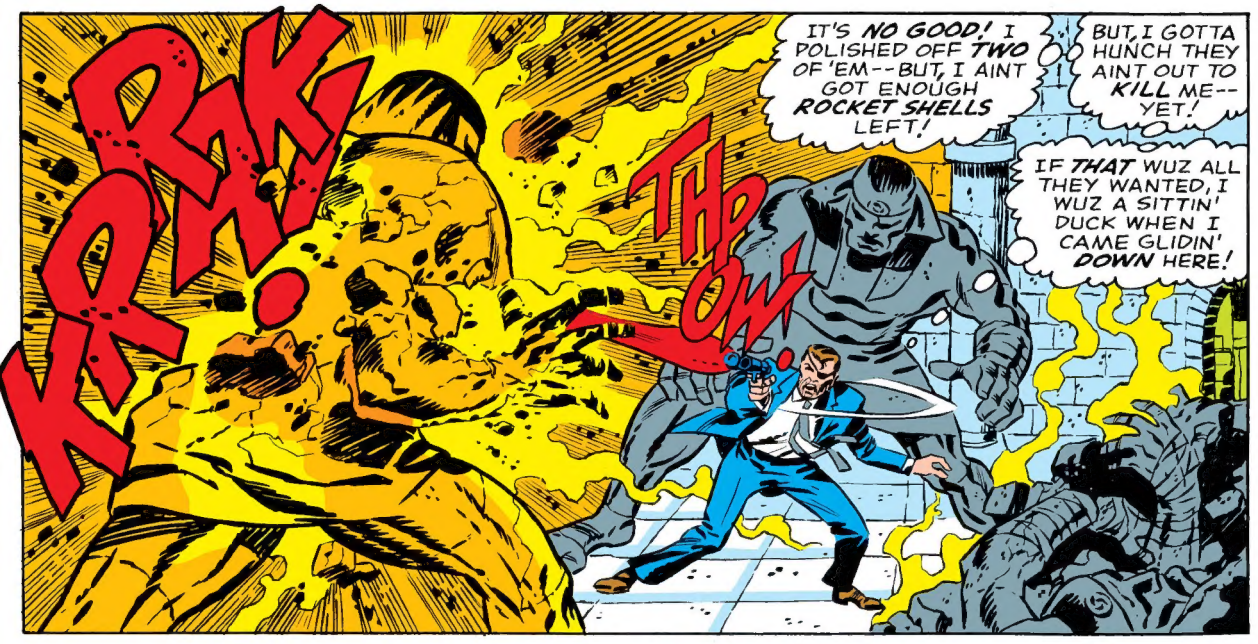
*Howard Chaykin was born and raised in New York City and started a career in comics at the age of 19 by apprenticing under Gil Kane and, later, Wallace Wood and Neal Adams. By 1972, he notched his first credits with work for Marvel, DC, Atlas-Seaboard and Archie while building a reputation as a boundary-breaking writer and artist. Chaykin is most widely known for illustrating the original 1977* Star Wars *comic book series and for his creator-owned series* American Flagg!, *and* Black Kiss. *He has also written for television. He is currently working on second volume of* Hey Kids! Comics!, *his behind-the-scenes dive into the life, struggles and personalities of the creators who built the comic book industry. The first volume is available in paperback now.*

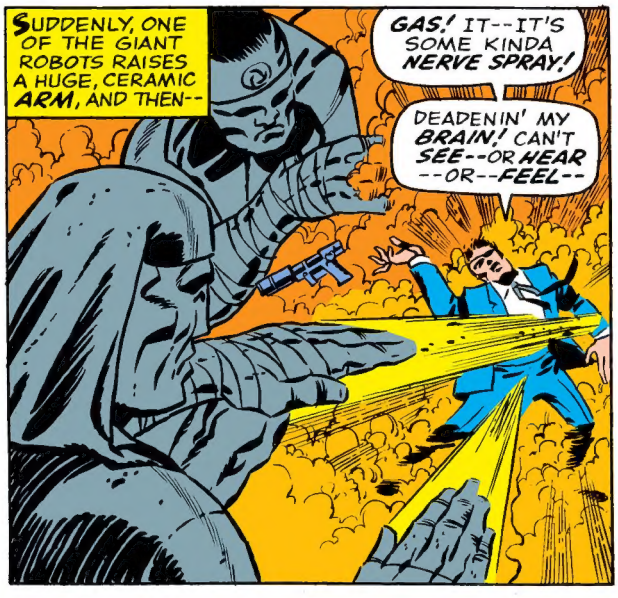
STRANGE TALES
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
NICK FURY, AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D.
DOCTOR STRANGE
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
12¢ IND.
151 DEC
KIRBY/STERANKO
"THE MOMENT OF.. OVERKILL!"

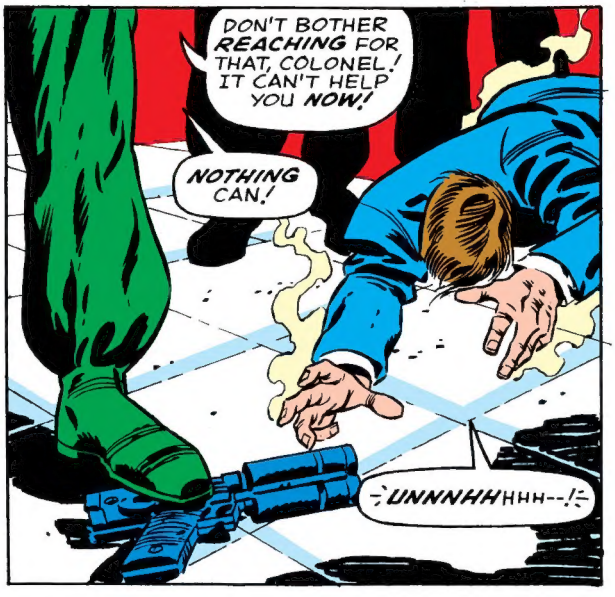
NICK FURY, AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D.!
SUPREME HEADQUARTERS INTERNATIONAL ESPIONAGE LAW-ENFORCEMENT DIVISION
"OVERKILL!"
IN THE MYSTERIOUS CITY OF KARNOPOLIS, AT THE EDGE OF THE AGELESS, ROLLING SAHARA, A RADAR-TYPE VIEWSCREEN, OPERATED BY A TEAM OF MERCILESS, HOODED TECHNICIANS, SECRETLY REVEALS A FATEFUL SIGHT--
IT'S NICK FURY-- EXACTLY AS THE ALL-HIGH SUPREME HYDRA PREDICTED!
HE IS ALONE!
THE S.A.C. BOMBER WHICH DROPPED HIM IS RETURNING TO ITS BASE!
HE WEARS ONE OF SHIELD'S LATEST ROCKET-PACK DEVICES-- FOR SILENT AERIAL DESCENT!
IT OBVIOUSLY CONTAINS HIGH-PRESSURE AIR-JETS...
...LIKE A SMALL, PORTABLE VERSION OF SHIELD'S ADVANCED-DESIGN HOVERCRAFT!
--LITTLE DREAMING THAT THIS IS THE LAST TIME HE SHALL BE SEEN--ALIVE!
DON'T YIELD!
SCRIPT: SMILIN' STAN LEE
LAYOUTS: JOLLY JACK KIRBY
ILLUSTRATIONS: JAUNTY JIM STERANKO
LETTERING: ADORABLE ARTIE SIMEK
HOOD LAUNDERING: IRATE IRVING FORBUSH
BACK SHIELD!
1

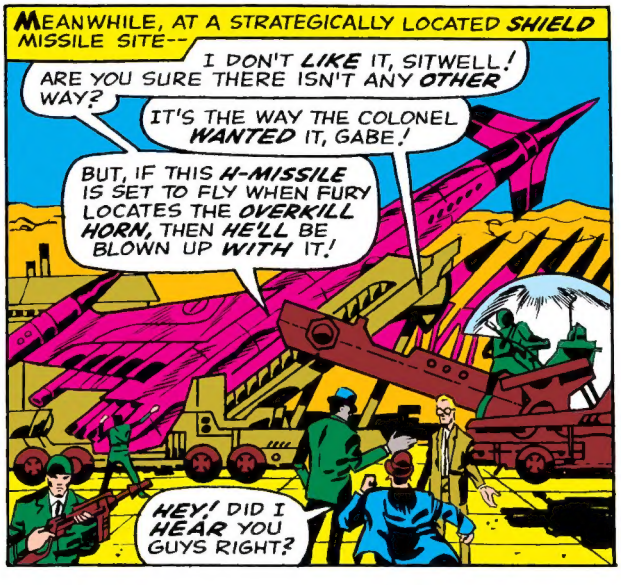
REQUEST PERMISSION TO FIRE HOMING SHELL, AND BLAST ENEMY OUT OF SKY!
HOMING SHELL READY FOR FIRING!
PERMISSION DENIED!
FURY IS UNDOUBTEDLY IN RADIO CONTACT WITH SHIELD AT THIS VERY MOMENT!
IF WE DESTROY HIM NOW, THEY CAN ANNIHILATE THIS ENTIRE AREA WITH RETALIATORY SATURATION BOMBING!
HAIL SUPREME HYDRA! IN ALL THE WORLD, THERE IS NONE SO CRAFTY--NONE SO WISE!
WE SHALL ALLOW FURY TO LAND WITHOUT INCIDENT! HE MUST REPORT THAT THERE IS NO CAUSE FOR ALARM!
AND THEN, WITH SHIELD WALLOWING IN A SEA OF FATAL SELF-CONFIDENCE--OF FALSE SECURITY--HYDRA WILL STRIKE!
FOR TOO LONG HAVE I MASQUERADED AS GRAND IMPERATOR OF THE SECRET ORGANIZATION KNOWN AS THEM--!
THE TIME HAS FINALLY COME FOR THE WORLD TO TREMBLE AT MY TRUE IDENTITY--THE SUPREME, ALL HIGH-HEAD OF HYDRA!
HAIL HYDRA! IMMORTAL HYDRA! WE SHALL NEVER BE DESTROYED!
CUT OFF A LIMB, AND TWO MORE SHALL TAKE ITS PLACE!
WE SERVE NONE BUT THE MASTER--AS THE WORLD SHALL SOON SERVE US!
HAIL HYDRA!
AND NOW, TO YOUR POSTS! THERE IS STILL MUCH TO BE DONE!
WHILE, DIRECTLY OUTSIDE THE SEEMINGLY DEAD CITY...
THIS IS THE PLACE, AWRIGHT! NOW ALL I GOTTA DO IS FIND ME THAT CREEP CABALLERO!
CABALLERO! I'LL BET ANYTHING IT'S A PHONY NAME! WONDER WHO HE REALLY IS?
OUR G-2 BOYS ARE SURE OF ONLY ONE THING--HYDRA'S REBORN AGAIN--AND CABALLERO'S THE HEAD OF IT!
THEY AINT EVEN TRYIN' TO PRETEND I WUZ INVITED TO A PARTY ANYMORE!
THE JOINT'S DESERTED!--WHICH MEANS EVERYONE'S GOTTA BE IN HIDIN' SOMEWHERE!
WELL, I AINT GONNA LEARN ANY MORE STANDIN' AROUND HERE--THAT'S FER SURE!

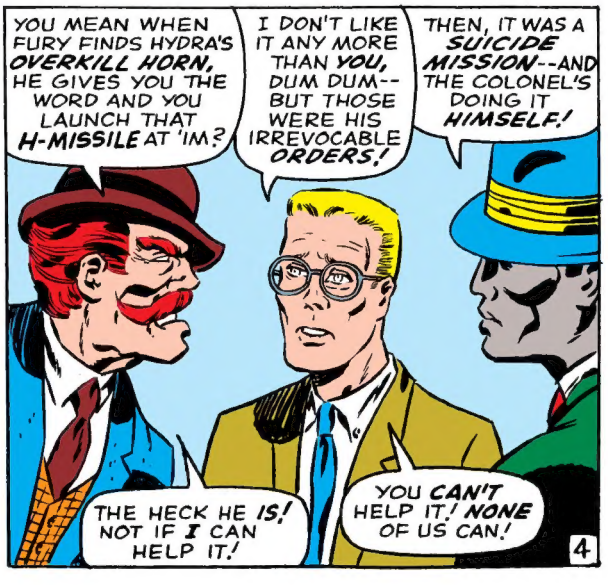
THEN, KNOWING FULL WELL THAT HE'S WALKING STRAIGHT INTO THE MOST DEADLY, THE MOST DANGEROUS TRAP IMAGINABLE, COLONEL NICK FURY, DIRECTOR OF SHIELD, ENTERS THE LONG-DEAD CITY OF KARNOPOLIS, WHERE EVERY SHADOW, EVERY PILLAR, EVERY CRUMBLING STATUE IS A SILENT COVER FOR IMPENDING DOOM--!
THIS AINT THE KINDA PLACE I'D WANNA SPEND A FURLOUGH IN--
BUT, SEEIN' AS HOW THIS AINT NO BLINKIN' FURLOUGH, IT DON'T MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE!
HEY! AM I GOIN' BATTY, OR DID I JUST SEE ONE'A THEM STATUES MOVE?
WELL, IT'S NICE T'KNOW I AINT LOSIN' MY MARBLES! THEY'RE MOVIN', AWRIGHT!
GIT BACK THERE! WHEN I WANT COMPANY I'LL ASK FER IT!
FTOK!
GOOD THING THIS BLASTER HAS TWO BARRELS! THE HIGH-POWERED SHELL DIDN'T EVEN SLOW 'IM UP!
SO I'LL GIVE 'IM A DOSE OF THIS ROCKET PELLET--!
IT'S GOT ENOUGH MUSCLE TO BLOW OUT THE SIDE OF A BATTLESHIP!
THPOW!
THERE HAS'TA BE AN OUTFIT LIKE HYDRA BEHIND THIS! YA DON'T BUILD GIANT, WALKIN' ROBOT STATUES OUTTA SOAP BOXES!
3

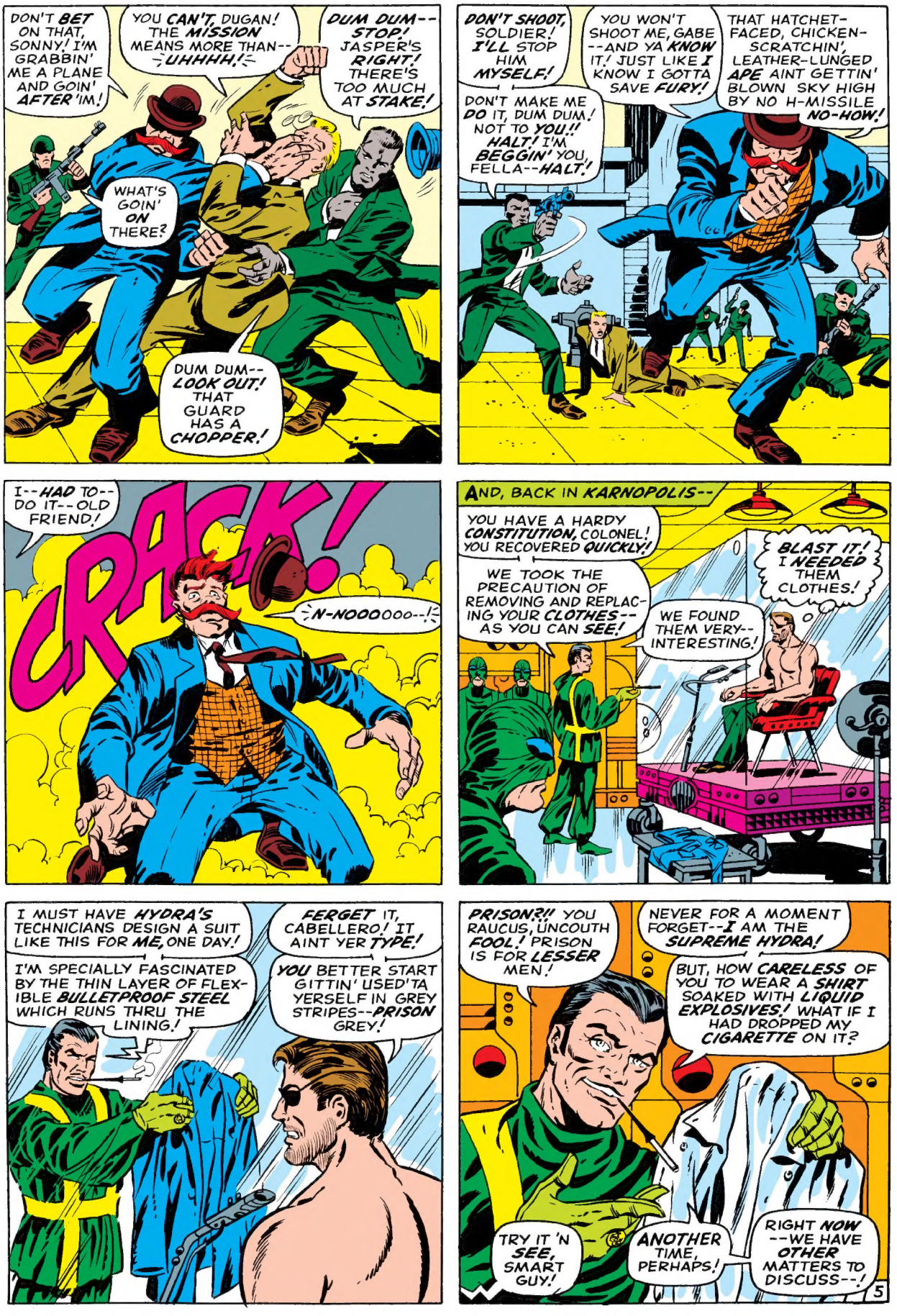

KR-RAK!
THP
OW!
IT'S NO GOOD! I POLISHED OFF TWO OF 'EM--BUT, I AINT GOT ENOUGH ROCKET SHELLS LEFT!
BUT, I GOTTA HUNCH THEY AINT OUT TO KILL ME--YET!
IF THAT WUZ ALL THEY WANTED, I WUZ A SITTIN' DUCK WHEN I CAME GLIDIN' DOWN HERE!

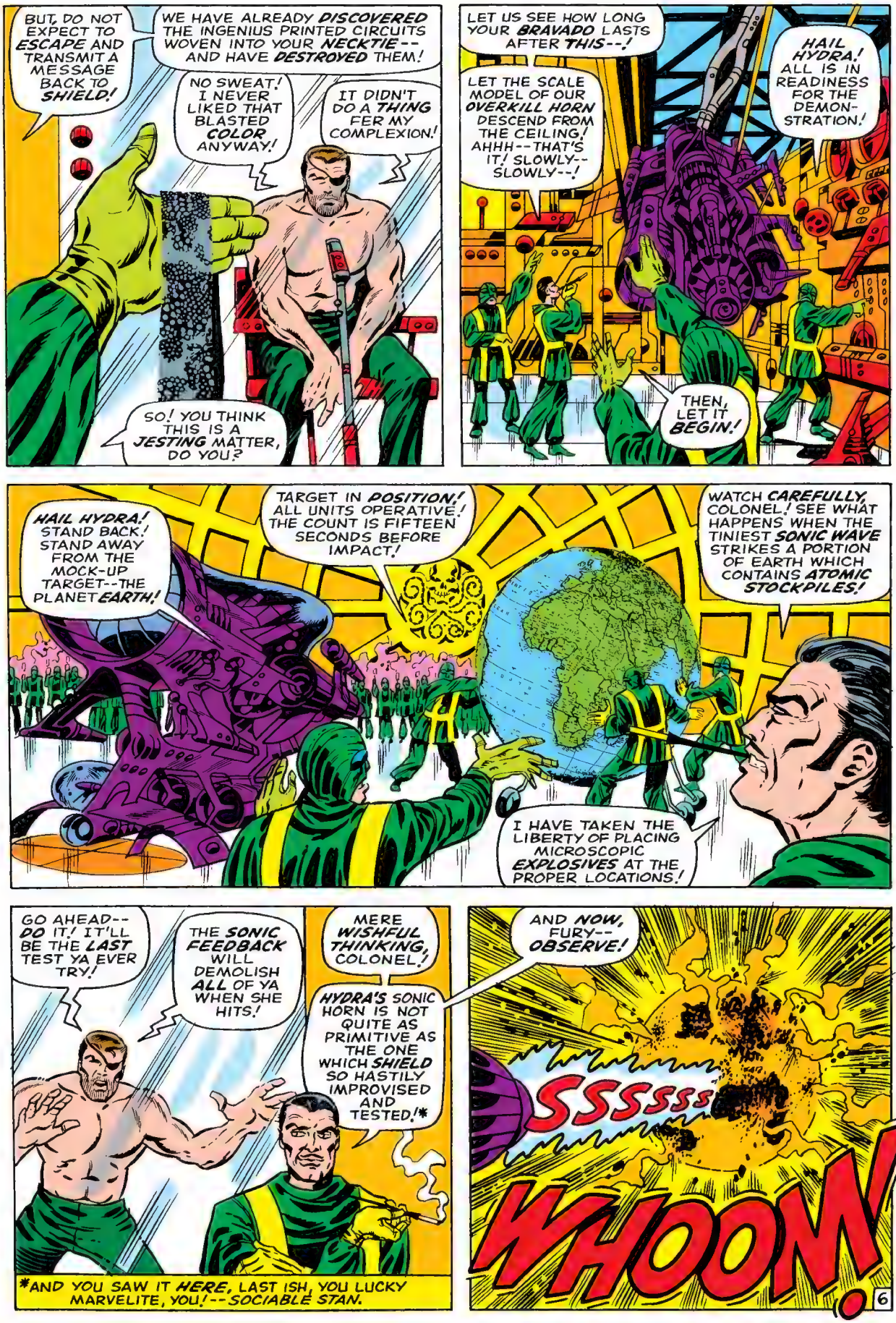

SUDDENLY, ONE OF THE GIANT ROBOTS RAISES A HUGE, CERAMIC ARM, AND THEN--
GAS! IT--IT'S SOME KINDA NERVE SPRAY!
DEADENIN' MY BRAIN! CAN'T SEE--OR HEAR --OR--FEEL--


DON'T BOTHER REACHING FOR THAT, COLONEL! IT CAN'T HELP YOU NOW!
NOTHING CAN!
-UNNNHHHHH--!-

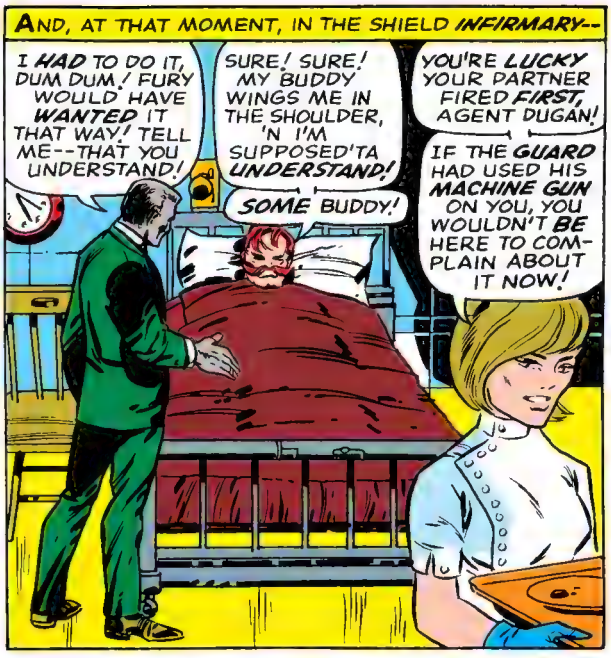

MEANWHILE, AT A STRATEGICALLY LOCATED SHIELD MISSILE SITE--
I DON'T LIKE IT, SITWELL! ARE YOU SURE THERE ISN'T ANY OTHER WAY?
IT'S THE WAY THE COLONEL WANTED IT, GABE!
BUT, IF THIS H-MISSILE IS SET TO FLY WHEN FURY LOCATES THE OVERKILL HORN, THEN HE'LL BE BLOWN UP WITH IT!
HEY! DID I HEAR YOU GUYS RIGHT?

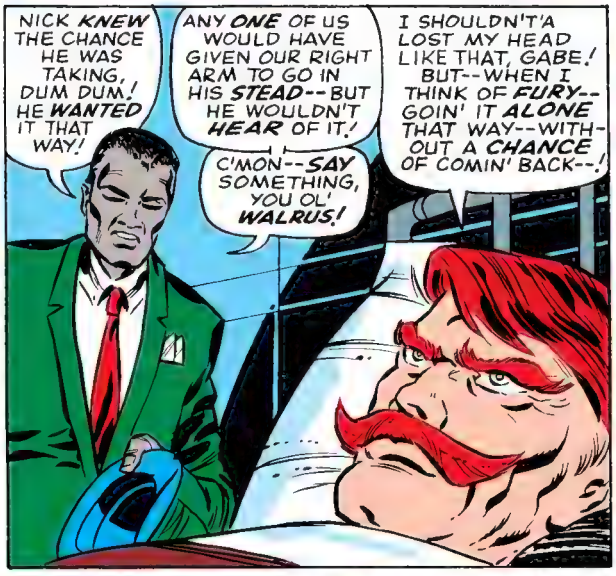

YOU MEAN WHEN FURY FINDS HYDRA'S OVERKILL HORN, HE GIVES YOU THE WORD AND YOU LAUNCH THAT H-MISSILE AT 'IM?
I DON'T LIKE IT ANY MORE THAN YOU, DUM DUM--BUT THOSE WERE HIS IRREVOCABLE ORDERS!
THEN, IT WAS A SUICIDE MISSION--AND THE COLONEL'S DOING IT HIMSELF!
THE HECK HE IS! NOT IF I CAN HELP IT!
YOU CAN'T HELP IT! NONE OF US CAN!

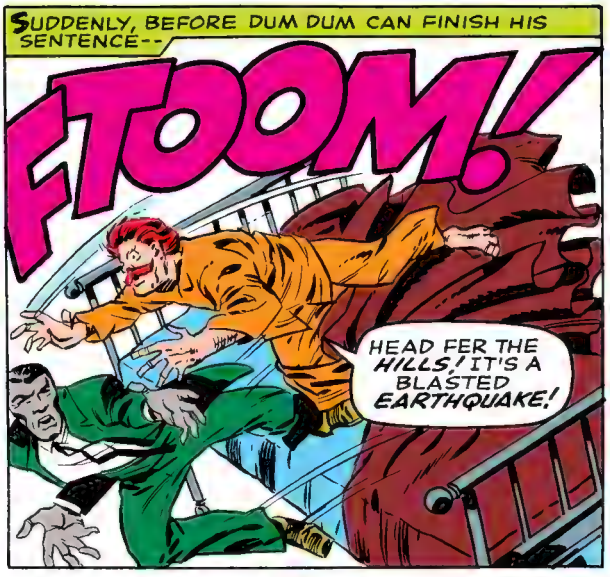

DON'T BET ON THAT, SONNY! I'M GRABBIN' ME A PLANE AND GOIN' AFTER 'IM!
YOU CAN'T, DUGAN! THE MISSION MEANS MORE THAN--
-UHHHH!-
DUM DUM--STOP! JASPER'S RIGHT! THERE'S TOO MUCH AT STAKE!
WHAT'S GOIN' ON THERE?
DUM DUM--LOOK OUT! THAT GUARD HAS A CHOPPER!
DON'T SHOOT, SOLDIER! I'LL STOP HIM MYSELF!
YOU WON'T SHOOT ME, GABE--AND YA KNOW IT! JUST LIKE I KNOW I GOTTA SAVE FURY!
THAT HATCHET-FACED, CHICKEN-SCRATCHIN', LEATHER-LUNGED APE AINT GETTIN' BLOWN SKY HIGH BY NO H-MISSILE NO-HOW!
DON'T MAKE ME DO IT, DUM DUM! NOT TO YOU!! HALT! I'M BEGGIN' YOU, FELLA--HALT!
I--HAD TO--DO IT--OLD FRIEND!
CRACK!
-N-NOOOOOO--!-
AND, BACK IN KARNOPOLIS--
YOU HAVE A HARDY CONSTITUTION, COLONEL! YOU RECOVERED QUICKLY!
WE TOOK THE PRECAUTION OF REMOVING AND REPLACING YOUR CLOTHES--AS YOU CAN SEE!
BLAST IT! I NEEDED THEM CLOTHES!
WE FOUND THEM VERY--INTERESTING!
I MUST HAVE HYDRA'S TECHNICIANS DESIGN A SUIT LIKE THIS FOR ME, ONE DAY!
I'M SPECIALLY FASCINATED BY THE THIN LAYER OF FLEXIBLE BULLETPROOF STEEL WHICH RUNS THRU THE LINING!
FERGET IT, CABELLERO! IT AINT YER TYPE!
YOU BETTER START GITTIN' USED'TA YERSELF IN GREY STRIPES--PRISON GREY!
PRISON?!! YOU RAUCUS, UNCOUTH FOOL! PRISON IS FOR LESSER MEN!
NEVER FOR A MOMENT FORGET--I AM THE SUPREME HYDRA!
BUT, HOW CARELESS OF YOU TO WEAR A SHIRT SOAKED WITH LIQUID EXPLOSIVES! WHAT IF I HAD DROPPED MY CIGARETTE ON IT?
TRY IT 'N SEE, SMART GUY!
ANOTHER TIME, PERHAPS!
RIGHT NOW--WE HAVE OTHER MATTERS TO DISCUSS--!

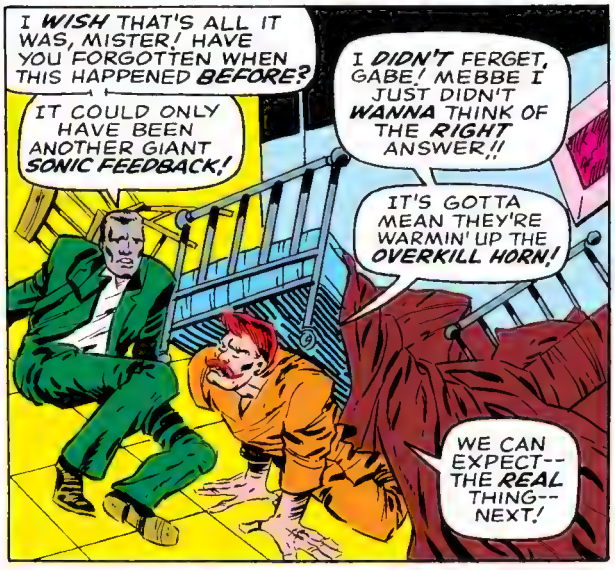

BUT, DO NOT EXPECT TO ESCAPE AND TRANSMIT A MESSAGE BACK TO SHIELD!
WE HAVE ALREADY DISCOVERED THE INGENIUS PRINTED CIRCUITS WOVEN INTO YOUR NECKTIE--AND HAVE DESTROYED THEM!
NO SWEAT! I NEVER LIKED THAT BLASTED COLOR ANYWAY!
IT DIDN'T DO A THING FER MY COMPLEXION!
SO! YOU THINK THIS IS A JESTING MATTER, DO YOU?
LET US SEE HOW LONG YOUR BRAVADO LASTS AFTER THIS--!
LET THE SCALE MODEL OF OUR OVERKILL HORN DESCEND FROM THE CEILING! AHHH--THAT'S IT! SLOWLY--SLOWLY--!
HAIL HYDRA! ALL IS IN READINESS FOR THE DEMONSTRATION!
THEN, LET IT BEGIN!
HAIL HYDRA! STAND BACK! STAND AWAY FROM THE MOCK-UP TARGET--THE PLANET EARTH!
TARGET IN POSITION! ALL UNITS OPERATIVE! THE COUNT IS FIFTEEN SECONDS BEFORE IMPACT!
WATCH CAREFULLY, COLONEL! SEE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE TINIEST SONIC WAVE STRIKES A PORTION OF EARTH WHICH CONTAINS ATOMIC STOCKPILES!
I HAVE TAKEN THE LIBERTY OF PLACING MICROSCOPIC EXPLOSIVES AT THE PROPER LOCATIONS!
GO AHEAD--DO IT! IT'LL BE THE LAST TEST YA EVER TRY!
THE SONIC FEEDBACK WILL DEMOLISH ALL OF YA WHEN SHE HITS!
MERE WISHFUL THINKING, COLONEL!
HYDRA'S SONIC HORN IS NOT QUITE AS PRIMITIVE AS THE ONE WHICH SHIELD SO HASTILY IMPROVISED AND TESTED!*
*AND YOU SAW IT HERE, LAST ISH, YOU LUCKY MARVELITE, YOU!--SOCIABLE STAN.
AND NOW, FURY--OBSERVE!
SSSSSS
WHOOM!

NATURALLY, ALL OF HYDRA WILL BE SAFELY QUARTERED IN FALLOUT SHELTERS, WHILE EVERY ATOMIC STOCKPILE ON EARTH IS DESTROYED!
THEN, WHEN THE AIR IS CLEAR, WE SHALL EMERGE, TO TAKE COMMAND OF ALL MANKIND!
LIKE RATS--COMIN' OUTTA THEIR ROTTEN HOLES! BUT, YA'LL NEVER DO IT! SHIELD'LL STOP YA!
IMPOSSIBLE! YOU'RE OUR PRISONER--AND THE REAL OVERKILL HORN IS BEING READIED TO FIRE EVEN WHILE WE SPEAK!
YA'LL NEVER DO IT, HEAR? WE'LL STOP YA SOMEHOW! SHIELD IS BIGGER'N JUST ME! NOTHIN' CAN LICK US!

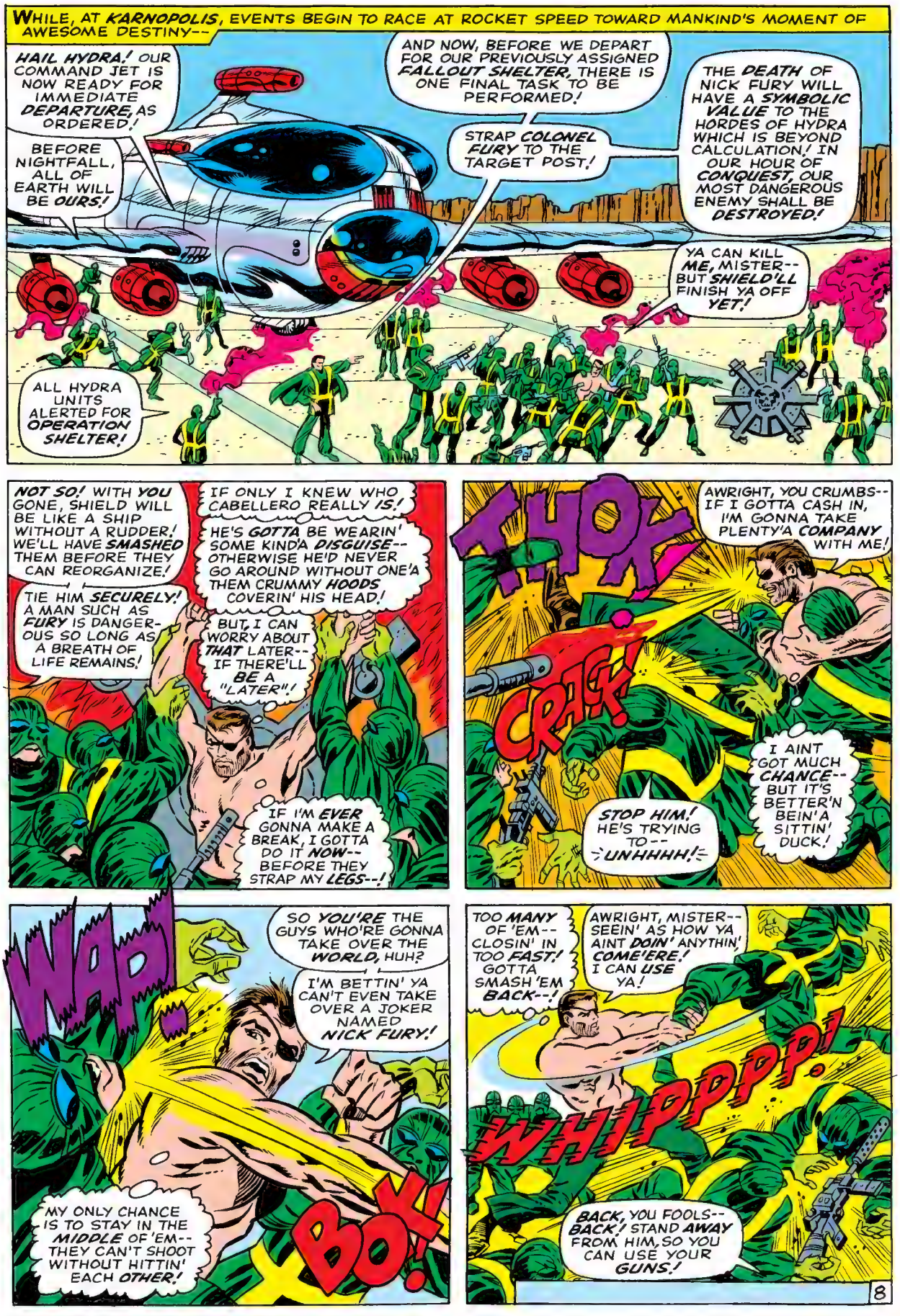

AND, AT THAT MOMENT, IN THE SHIELD INFIRMARY--
I HAD TO DO IT, DUM DUM! FURY WOULD HAVE WANTED IT THAT WAY! TELL ME--THAT YOU UNDERSTAND!
SURE! SURE! MY BUDDY WINGS ME IN THE SHOULDER, 'N I'M SUPPOSED'TA UNDERSTAND!
SOME BUDDY!
YOU'RE LUCKY YOUR PARTNER FIRED FIRST, AGENT DUGAN!
IF THE GUARD HAD USED HIS MACHINE GUN ON YOU, YOU WOULDN'T BE HERE TO COMPLAIN ABOUT IT NOW!


NICK KNEW THE CHANCE HE WAS TAKING, DUM DUM! HE WANTED IT THAT WAY!
ANY ONE OF US WOULD HAVE GIVEN OUR RIGHT ARM TO GO IN HIS STEAD--BUT HE WOULDN'T HEAR OF IT!
C'MON--SAY SOMETHING, YOU OL' WALRUS!
I SHOULDN'T'A LOST MY HEAD LIKE THAT, GABE! BUT--WHEN I THINK OF FURY--GOIN' IT ALONE THAT WAY--WITHOUT A CHANCE OF COMIN' BACK--!


SUDDENLY, BEFORE DUM DUM CAN FINISH HIS SENTENCE--
FTOOM!
HEAD FER THE HILLS! IT'S A BLASTED EARTHQUAKE!


I WISH THAT'S ALL IT WAS, MISTER! HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN WHEN THIS HAPPENED BEFORE?
IT COULD ONLY HAVE BEEN ANOTHER GIANT SONIC FEEDBACK!
I DIDN'T FERGET, GABE! MEBBE I JUST DIDN'T WANNA THINK OF THE RIGHT ANSWER!!
IT'S GOTTA MEAN THEY'RE WARMIN' UP THE OVERKILL HORN!
WE CAN EXPECT--THE REAL THING--NEXT!

HOLD IT, DUM DUM! SITWELL'S TRYING TO REACH US! MUST BE URGENT!
WELL, WHAT'RE WE WAITIN' ON? NO BLAMED SHOULDER SCRATCH IS GONNA KEEP ME IN BED NOW!
AGENTS DUGAN AND JONES!! REPORT TO COMMUNICATIONS' SECTION ON THE DOUBLE! CONDITION RED!
LET'S GO!

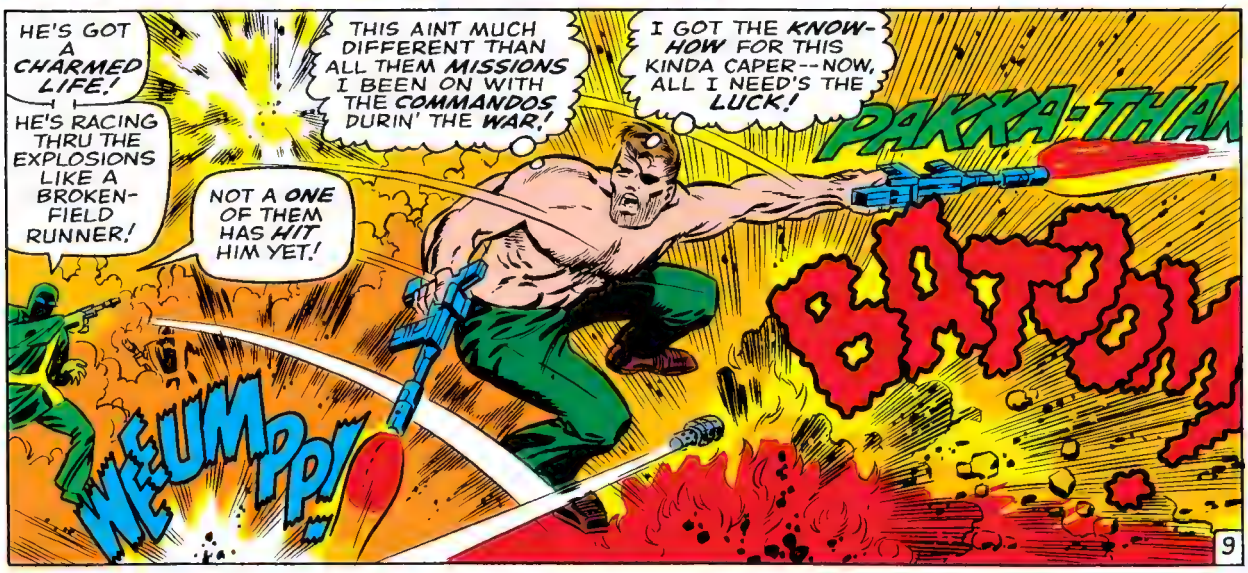

WHILE, AT KARNOPOLIS, EVENTS BEGIN TO RACE AT ROCKET SPEED TOWARD MANKIND'S MOMENT OF AWESOME DESTINY--
HAIL HYDRA! OUR COMMAND JET IS NOW READY FOR IMMEDIATE DEPARTURE, AS ORDERED!
BEFORE NIGHTFALL, ALL OF EARTH WILL BE OURS!
AND NOW, BEFORE WE DEPART FOR OUR PREVIOUSLY ASSIGNED FALLOUT SHELTER, THERE IS ONE FINAL TASK TO BE PERFORMED!
STRAP COLONEL FURY TO THE TARGET POST!
THE DEATH OF NICK FURY WILL HAVE A SYMBOLIC VALUE TO THE HORDES OF HYDRA WHICH IS BEYOND CALCULATION! IN OUR HOUR OF CONQUEST, OUR MOST DANGEROUS ENEMY SHALL BE DESTROYED!
YA CAN KILL ME, MISTER-- BUT SHIELD'LL FINISH YA OFF YET!
ALL HYDRA UNITS ALERTED FOR OPERATION SHELTER!
NOT SO! WITH YOU GONE, SHIELD WILL BE LIKE A SHIP WITHOUT A RUDDER! WE'LL HAVE SMASHED THEM BEFORE THEY CAN REORGANIZE!
TIE HIM SECURELY! A MAN SUCH AS FURY IS DANGEROUS SO LONG AS A BREATH OF LIFE REMAINS!
IF ONLY I KNEW WHO CABELLERO REALLY IS!
HE'S GOTTA BE WEARIN' SOME KIND'A DISGUISE-- OTHERWISE HE'D NEVER GO AROUND WITHOUT ONE'A THEM CRUMMY HOODS COVERIN' HIS HEAD!
BUT, I CAN WORRY ABOUT THAT LATER-- IF THERE'LL BE A "LATER"!
IF I'M EVER GONNA MAKE A BREAK, I GOTTA DO IT NOW-- BEFORE THEY STRAP MY LEGS--!
THOR
AWRIGHT, YOU CRUMBS-- IF I GOTTA CASH IN, I'M GONNA TAKE PLENTY'A COMPANY WITH ME!
CRACK!
I AINT GOT MUCH CHANCE-- BUT IT'S BETTER'N BEIN'A SITTIN' DUCK!
STOP HIM! HE'S TRYING TO-- =UNHHHH!=
WAP!
SO YOU'RE THE GUYS WHO'RE GONNA TAKE OVER THE WORLD, HUH?
I'M BETTIN' YA CAN'T EVEN TAKE OVER A JOKER NAMED NICK FURY!
MY ONLY CHANCE IS TO STAY IN THE MIDDLE OF 'EM-- THEY CAN'T SHOOT WITHOUT HITTIN' EACH OTHER!
BO!
TOO MANY OF 'EM-- CLOSIN' IN TOO FAST! GOTTA SMASH 'EM BACK--!
AWRIGHT, MISTER-- SEEIN' AS HOW YA AINT DOIN' ANYTHIN', COME'ERE! I CAN USE YA!
WHIPPPP!
BACK, YOU FOOLS-- BACK! STAND AWAY FROM HIM, SO YOU CAN USE YOUR GUNS!

THAT'S IT! NOW SHOOT! DON'T WAIT-- FIRE!
YOUR BOSS IS A REAL EAGER-BEAVER, AINT HE?
WELL, I GOT NEWS FOR YA, SONNY BOYS-- THERE AINT NO FLIES ON ME, NEITHER!
KRAK!
BROM!
STOP HIM! DON'T LET FURY GET HIS HANDS ON THAT GUN!

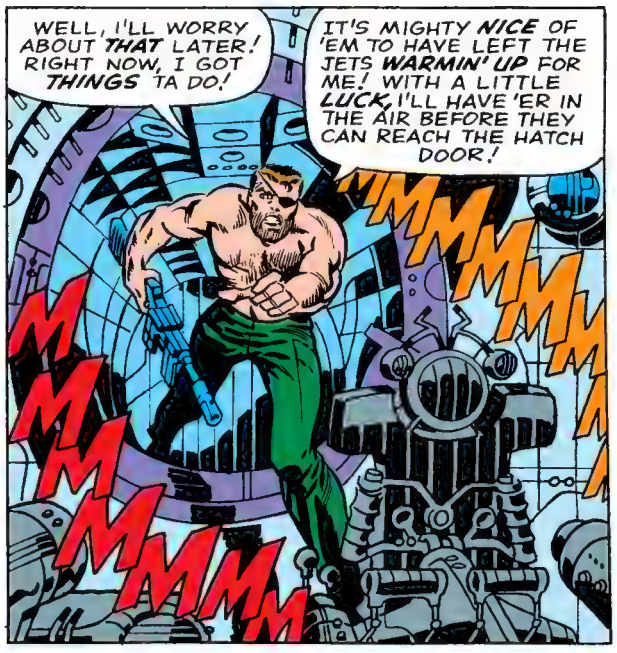
YER JUST A LITTLE TOO LATE, PUNK!
I AWREADY GOT ME THE CHOPPER-- AND NOW I'LL SHOW YA HOW'TA USE IT!
PAKKA-PAK
THAKK
PAKKA
THAKKA-P
POKK
CAN'T HOLD OUT MUCH LONGER! GOTTA THINK OF SOMETHIN' FAST!
AND THERE'S MY TICKET NOW!

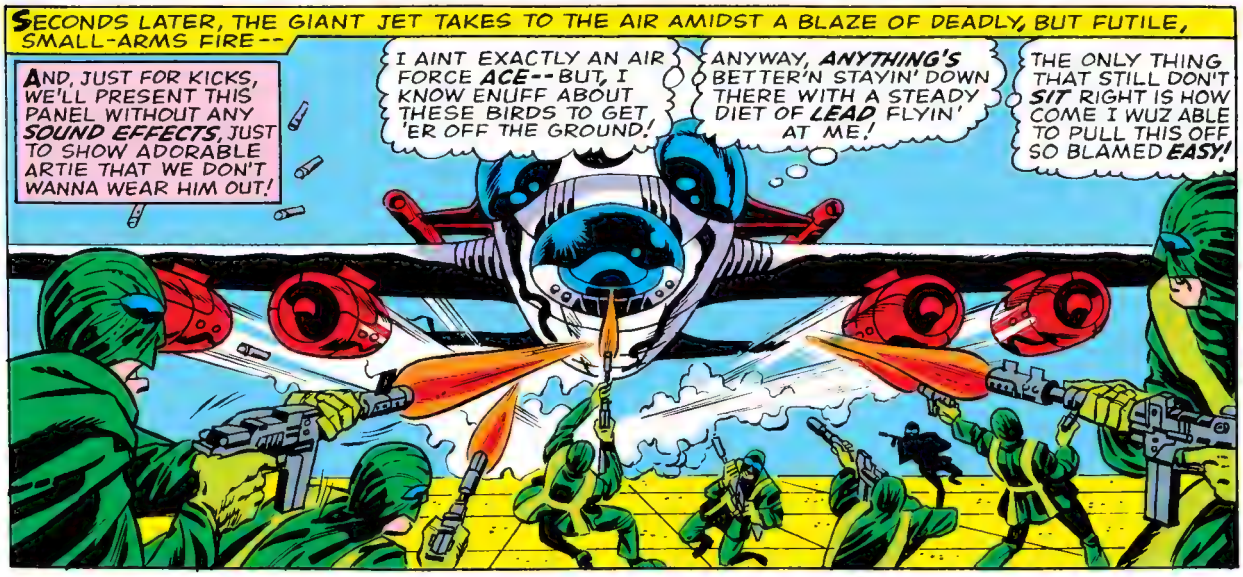
HOLD YOUR FIRE! THE VOLLEYS KICKED UP SO MUCH DUST THAT WE CAN'T SEE HIM! WAIT TILL THE SMOKE CLEARS, AND THEN--LOOK!
THERE HE IS! HEADING FOR THE PLANE! AFTER HIM!
WE CAN'T TAKE A CHANCE ON MISSING THE TARGET--USE YOUR GRENADE SHELLS!
FIRE AT WILL!

PA-THOW!
THAK!
THAK!
THAK!
FASTER! FASTER! KEEP FIRING! KEEP FIRING!


HE'S GOT A CHARMED LIFE!
HE'S RACING THRU THE EXPLOSIONS LIKE A BROKEN-FIELD RUNNER!
NOT A ONE OF THEM HAS HIT HIM YET!
THIS AINT MUCH DIFFERENT THAN ALL THEM MISSIONS I BEEN ON WITH THE COMMANDOS DURIN' THE WAR!
I GOT THE KNOW-HOW FOR THIS KINDA CAPER--NOW, ALL I NEED'S THE LUCK!
PAKKA-THA
BATOW
WEUMPP!

MADE IT JUST IN TIME! ONLY GOT ANOTHER FEW BURSTS OF AMMO LEFT!
ONLY ONE THING STILL BUGGIN' ME--
WHY AINT THERE ANY GUARDS HERE AT THE PLANE?
YA DON'T GIT TO BE HEAD OF AN OUTFIT LIKE HYDRA BY TAKIN' CARELESS CHANCES!
'N WHATEVER ELSE I MAY THINK OF 'IM--CABELLERO'S NO FOOL!
THAKKA PA-KOW!
PWEEEEEEE

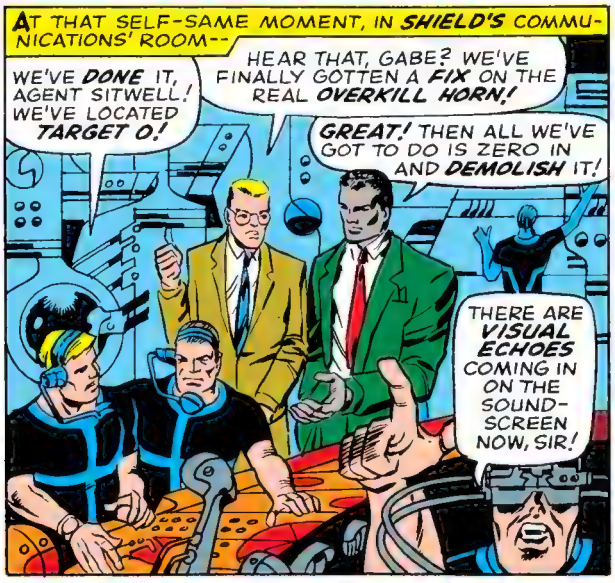

WELL, I'LL WORRY ABOUT THAT LATER! RIGHT NOW, I GOT THINGS TA DO!
IT'S MIGHTY NICE OF 'EM TO HAVE LEFT THE JETS WARMIN' UP FOR ME! WITH A LITTLE LUCK, I'LL HAVE 'ER IN THE AIR BEFORE THEY CAN REACH THE HATCH DOOR!
MMMMMMMM


SECONDS LATER, THE GIANT JET TAKES TO THE AIR AMIDST A BLAZE OF DEADLY, BUT FUTILE, SMALL-ARMS FIRE--
AND, JUST FOR KICKS, WE'LL PRESENT THIS PANEL WITHOUT ANY SOUND EFFECTS, JUST TO SHOW ADORABLE ARTIE THAT WE DON'T WANNA WEAR HIM OUT!
I AINT EXACTLY AN AIR FORCE ACE--BUT, I KNOW ENUFF ABOUT THESE BIRDS TO GET 'ER OFF THE GROUND!
ANYWAY, ANYTHING'S BETTER'N STAYIN' DOWN THERE WITH A STEADY DIET OF LEAD FLYIN' AT ME!
THE ONLY THING THAT STILL DON'T SIT RIGHT IS HOW COME I WUZ ABLE TO PULL THIS OFF SO BLAMED EASY!

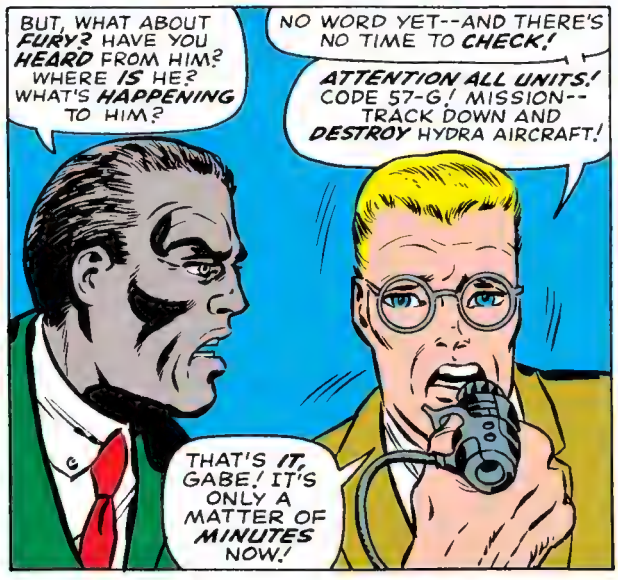
HOLD YOUR FIRE! FURY IS OUT OF RANGE!
THE DUPED DIRECTOR OF SHIELD NEVER SUSPECTED A THING!
HAIL HYDRA! IT WENT EXACTLY AS PLANNED!

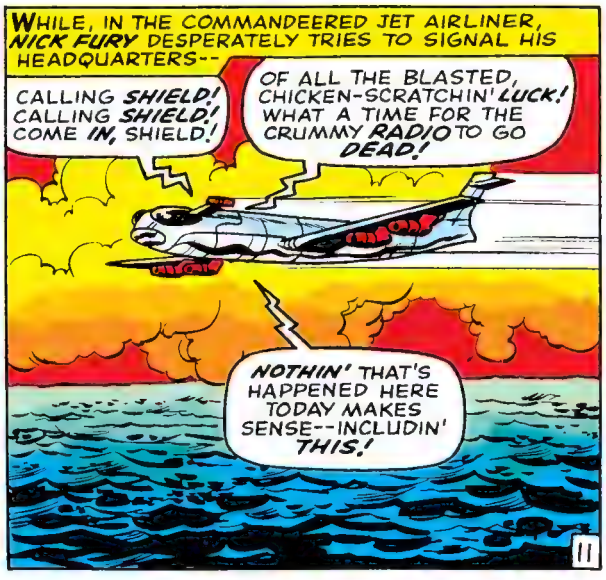
AND NOW--WILL OUR "CASUALTIES" PLEASE RISE?

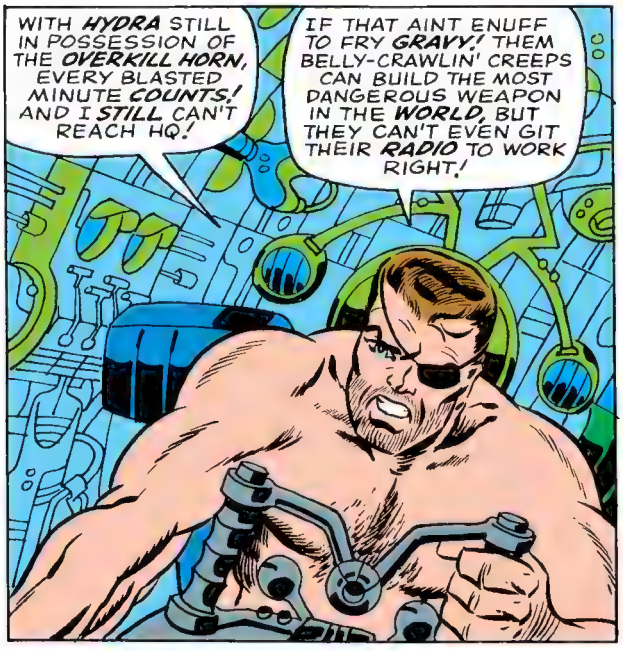
FURY NEVER SUSPECTED WE WERE ALL FIRING BLANKS!
NOR THE FACT, THAT EVEN OUR GRENADES WERE DUMMY REPLICAS --CONTAINING NOISY, BUT HARMLESS, EXPLOSIVES!
FURY THINKS HE HAS ESCAPED! HE FEELS HE HAS DEFEATED US--AND BELIEVES HIMSELF ON HIS WAY TO WARN SHIELD OF OUR PLAN!
WHAT A PITY HE DOES NOT SUSPECT THE FATAL TRUTH--
--THE FACT THAT HE HIMSELF IS CARRYING DOOM AND DEFEAT TO THE REST OF MANKIND!
HAIL HYDRA!


AT THAT SELF-SAME MOMENT, IN SHIELD'S COMMUNICATIONS' ROOM--
WE'VE DONE IT, AGENT SITWELL! WE'VE LOCATED TARGET O!
HEAR THAT, GABE? WE'VE FINALLY GOTTEN A FIX ON THE REAL OVERKILL HORN!
GREAT! THEN ALL WE'VE GOT TO DO IS ZERO IN AND DEMOLISH IT!
THERE ARE VISUAL ECHOES COMING IN ON THE SOUND-SCREEN NOW, SIR!

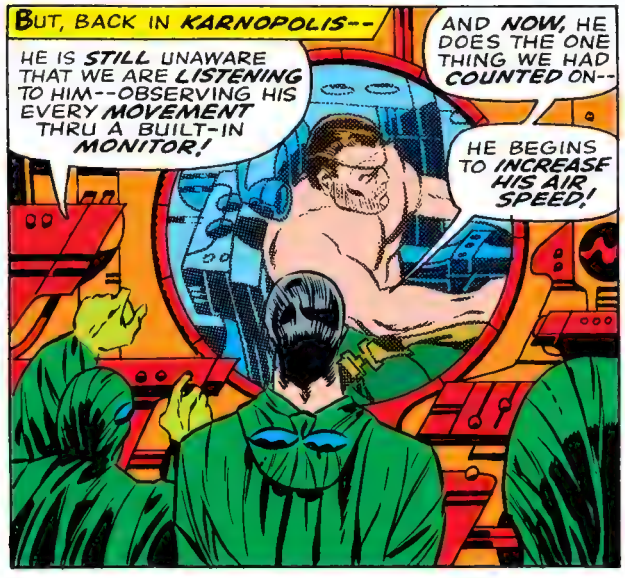
THERE THEY ARE, GABE! AND, JUDGING BY THE AUDIO-IMAGE-PATTERN, THEY'RE OBVIOUSLY FROM AN AIRBORNE SOURCE!
RIGHT! AND, IF THE OVERKILL HORN IS IN SOME SORT OF AIRCRAFT, SHIELD HAS THE MUSCLE TO SHOOT DOWN ANYTHING THAT FLIES!


BUT, WHAT ABOUT FURY? HAVE YOU HEARD FROM HIM? WHERE IS HE? WHAT'S HAPPENING TO HIM?
NO WORD YET--AND THERE'S NO TIME TO CHECK!
ATTENTION ALL UNITS! CODE 57-G! MISSION--TRACK DOWN AND DESTROY HYDRA AIRCRAFT!
THAT'S IT, GABE! IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF MINUTES NOW!


WHILE, IN THE COMMANDEERED JET AIRLINER, NICK FURY DESPERATELY TRIES TO SIGNAL HIS HEADQUARTERS--
CALLING SHIELD! CALLING SHIELD! COME IN, SHIELD!
OF ALL THE BLASTED, CHICKEN-SCRATCHIN' LUCK! WHAT A TIME FOR THE CRUMMY RADIO TO GO DEAD!
NOTHIN' THAT'S HAPPENED HERE TODAY MAKES SENSE--INCLUDIN' THIS!


WITH HYDRA STILL IN POSSESSION OF THE OVERKILL HORN, EVERY BLASTED MINUTE COUNTS! AND I STILL CAN'T REACH HQ!
IF THAT AIN'T ENUFF TO FRY GRAVY! THEM BELLY-CRAWLIN' CREEPS CAN BUILD THE MOST DANGEROUS WEAPON IN THE WORLD, BUT THEY CAN'T EVEN GIT THEIR RADIO TO WORK RIGHT!

WELL, THE HECK WITH IT!
I'LL JUST OPEN THIS BABY UP WIDE, 'N GIT TO THE NEAREST S.A.C. BASE AT MAXIMUM SPEED! AFTER THAT, IT'LL ALL BE OVER BUT THE SHOUTIN'!


BUT, BACK IN KARNOPOLIS--
HE IS STILL UNAWARE THAT WE ARE LISTENING TO HIM--OBSERVING HIS EVERY MOVEMENT THRU A BUILT-IN MONITOR!
AND NOW, HE DOES THE ONE THING WE HAD COUNTED ON--
HE BEGINS TO INCREASE HIS AIR SPEED!

THUS, THE FINAL TRIUMPH BELONGS TO HYDRA--NOW AND FOREVER! WE HAVE OUT-FOUGHT, OUT-PLANNED, AND OUT-MANEUVERED SHIELD AT EVERY TURN!
FOR, NICK FURY, ALAS, CANNOT POSSIBLY SUSPECT THAT THE OVERKILL HORN WHICH EVERY-ONE SEEKS IS ACTUALLY ONE OF THE ENGINES OF THE VERY PLANE HE FLIES!
DEATH TO FURY--AND TO ALL OF SHIELD!
PATIENCE! YOUR OATH SHALL BE AN ACCOMPLISHED FACT WITHIN MINUTES!

AS FURY INCREASES HIS AIR SPEED, THE ONE DUMMY ENGINE WILL INCREASE THE SONIC WAVES IT PRODUCES!
THE FASTER HE FLIES, THE MORE SONIC WAVES HE GENERATES!
UNTIL THAT FINAL FATAL MOMENT WHEN HE REACHES MAXIMUM SPEED, CAUSING THE SONIC WAVES TO REACH THEIR MAXIMUM PEAK!
12

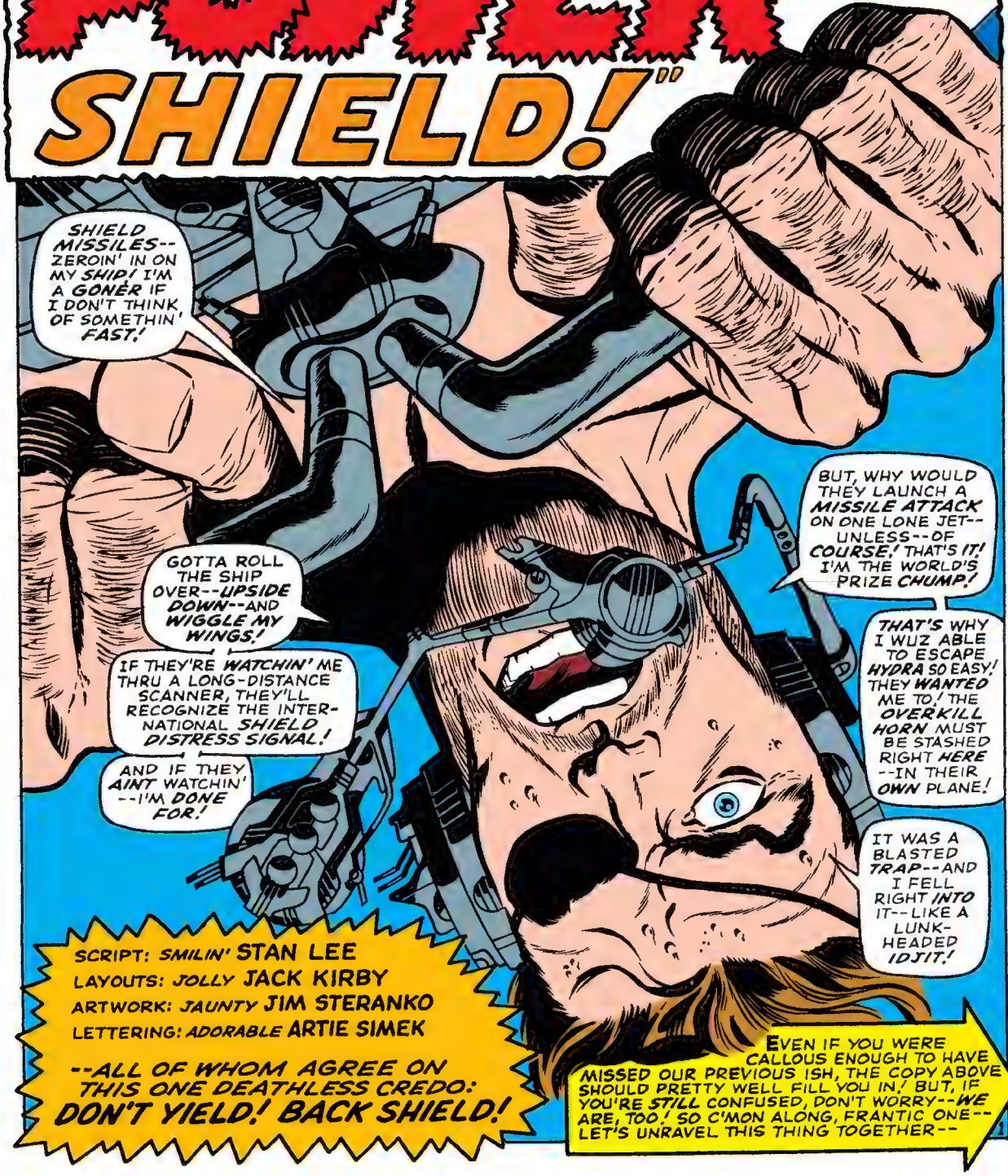
AND, IT IS THEN, CAUSED BY FURY'S OWN HAND ON THE THROTTLE, THAT THE OVER-KILL HORN WILL SOUND ITS DEADLY BLAST!
HAIL HYDRA!
HAIL HYDRA!

ONLY SECONDS REMAIN--
--TILL THE DEATH OF FURY--AND SHIELD--
--AND THE BIRTH OF THE RULE OF--HYDRA!
NEXT:
the POWER OF S.H.I.E.L.D.!

# NICK FURY, AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D.!

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS INTERNATIONAL ESPIONAGE LAW-ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

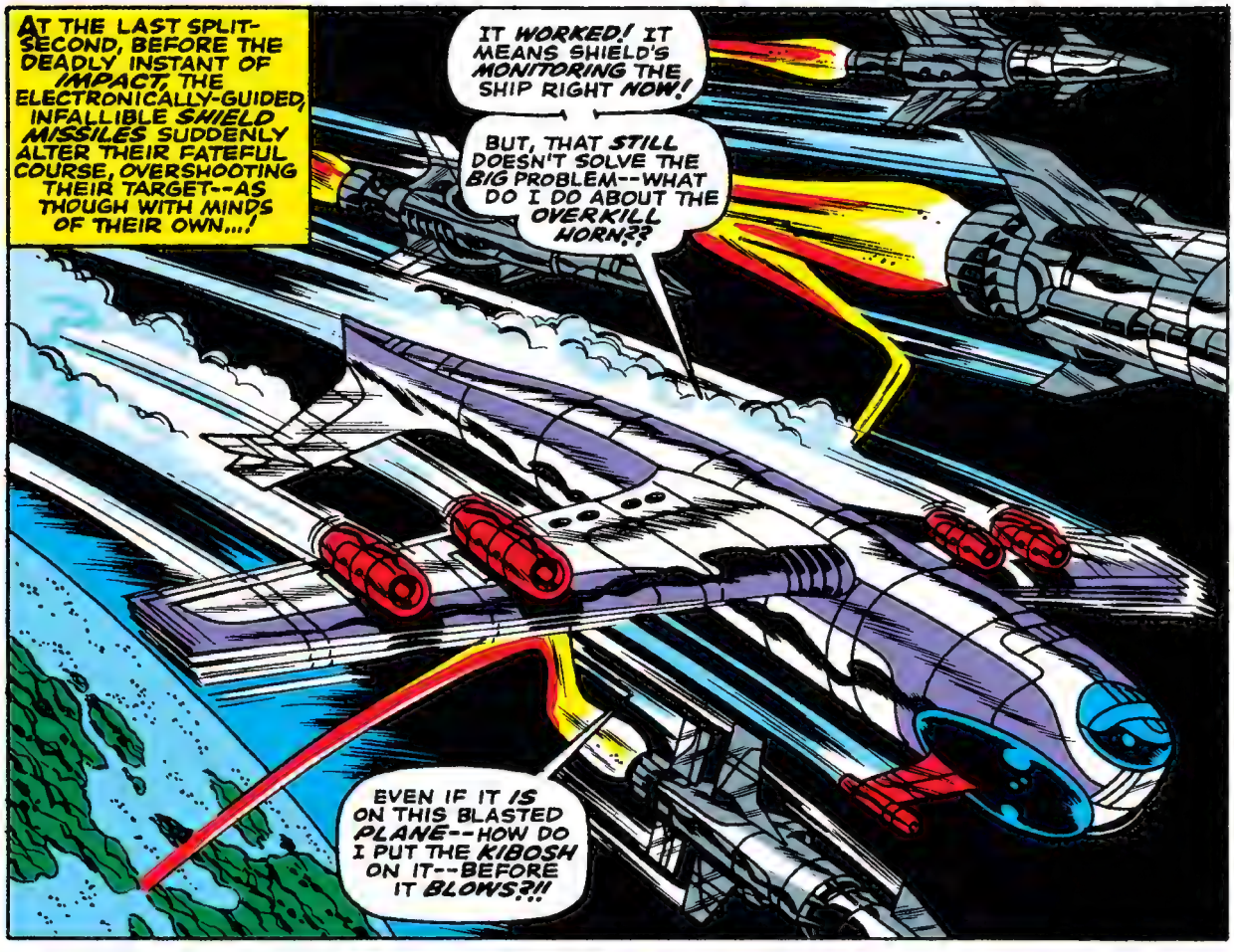
# "THE POWER OF SHIELD!"


SHIELD MISSILES--ZEROIN' IN ON MY SHIP! I'M A GONER IF I DON'T THINK OF SOMETHIN' FAST!
GOTTA ROLL THE SHIP OVER--UPSIDE DOWN--AND WIGGLE MY WINGS!
IF THEY'RE WATCHIN' ME THRU A LONG-DISTANCE SCANNER, THEY'LL RECOGNIZE THE INTERNATIONAL SHIELD DISTRESS SIGNAL!
AND IF THEY AINT WATCHIN' --I'M DONE FOR!
BUT, WHY WOULD THEY LAUNCH A MISSILE ATTACK ON ONE LONE JET--UNLESS--OF COURSE! THAT'S IT! I'M THE WORLD'S PRIZE CHUMP!
THAT'S WHY I WUZ ABLE TO ESCAPE HYDRA SO EASY! THEY WANTED ME TO! THE OVERKILL HORN MUST BE STASHED RIGHT HERE --IN THEIR OWN PLANE!
IT WAS A BLASTED TRAP--AND I FELL RIGHT INTO IT--LIKE A LUNK-HEADED IDJIT!

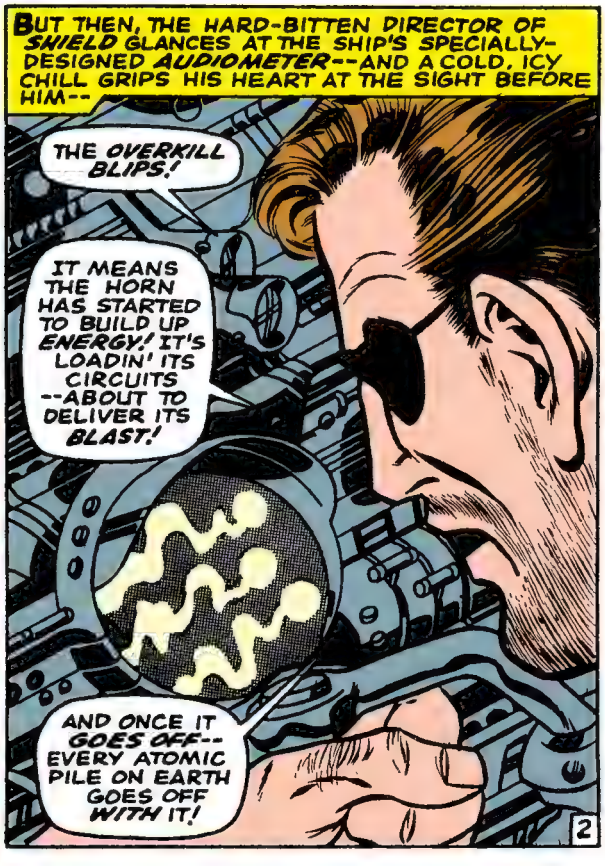
SCRIPT: SMILIN' STAN LEE
LAYOUTS: JOLLY JACK KIRBY
ARTWORK: JAUNTY JIM STERANKO
LETTERING: ADORABLE ARTIE SIMEK

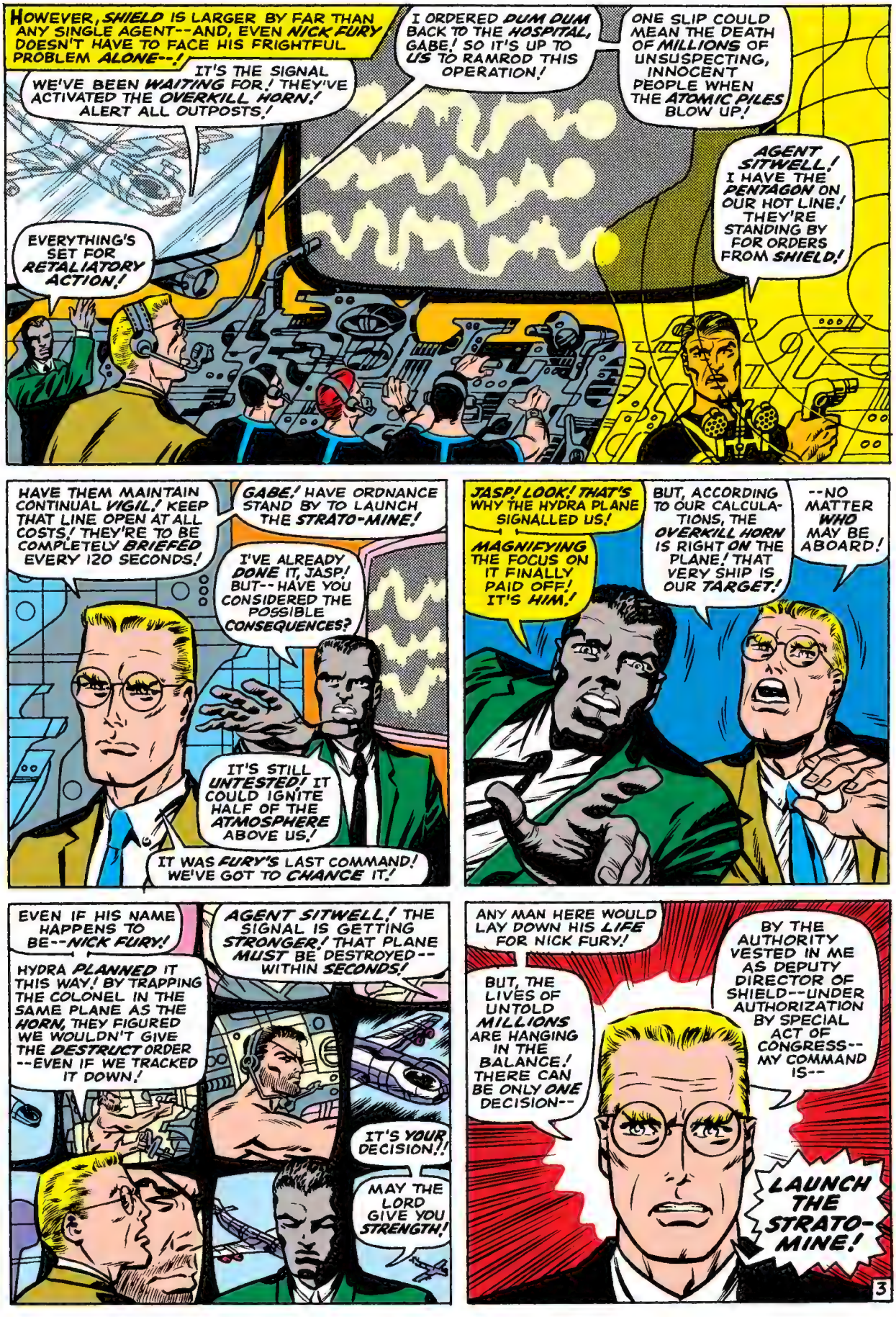
--ALL OF WHOM AGREE ON THIS ONE DEATHLESS CREDO:
**DON'T YIELD! BACK SHIELD!**

EVEN IF YOU WERE CALLOUS ENOUGH TO HAVE MISSED OUR PREVIOUS ISH, THE COPY ABOVE SHOULD PRETTY WELL FILL YOU IN! BUT, IF YOU'RE STILL CONFUSED, DON'T WORRY--WE ARE, TOO! SO C'MON ALONG, FRANTIC ONE--LET'S UNRAVEL THIS THING TOGETHER--

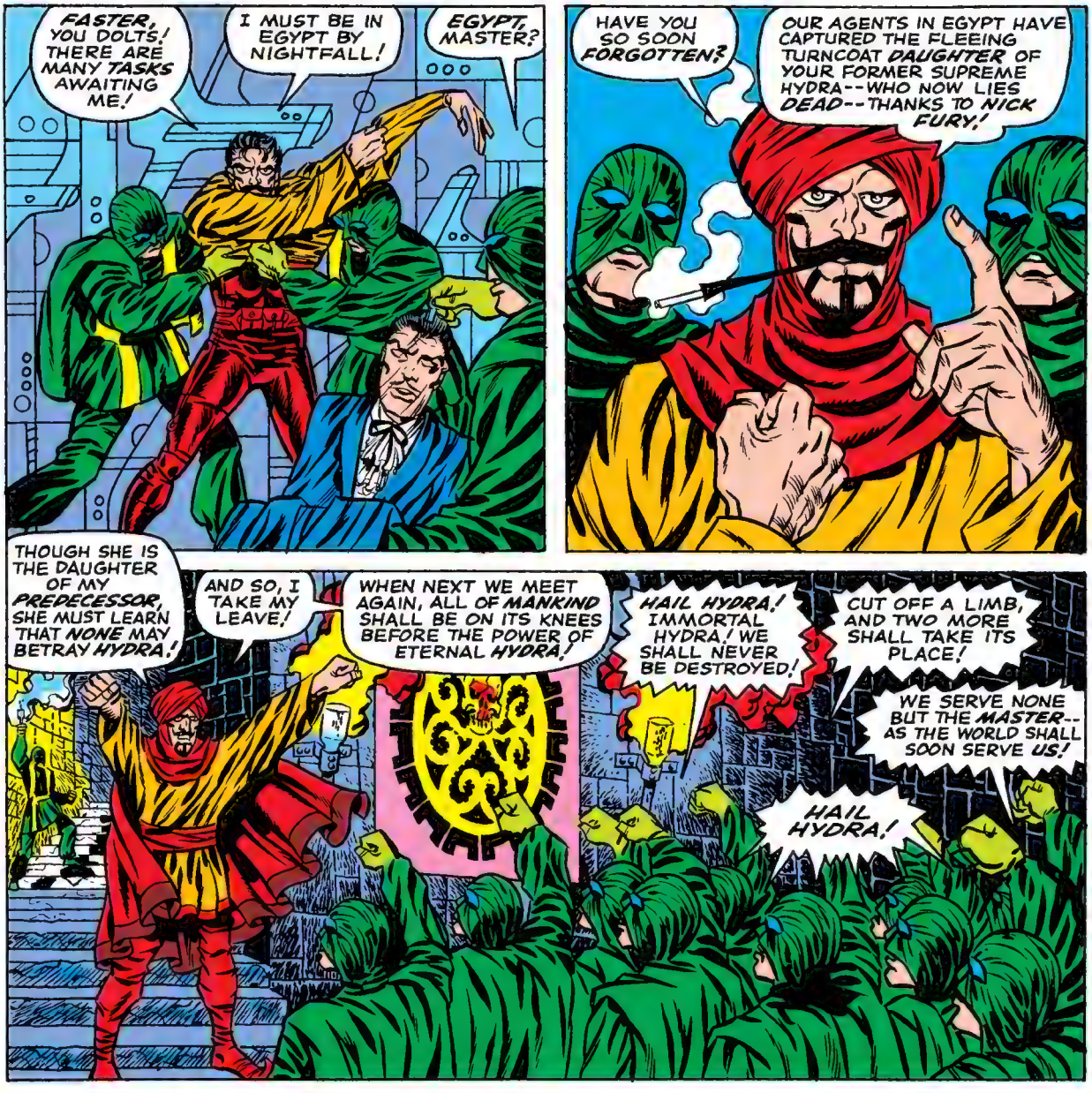

AT THE LAST SPLIT-SECOND, BEFORE THE DEADLY INSTANT OF IMPACT, THE ELECTRONICALLY-GUIDED, INFALLIBLE SHIELD MISSILES SUDDENLY ALTER THEIR FATEFUL COURSE, OVERSHOOTING THEIR TARGET--AS THOUGH WITH MINDS OF THEIR OWN...!
IT WORKED! IT MEANS SHIELD'S MONITORING THE SHIP RIGHT NOW!
BUT, THAT STILL DOESN'T SOLVE THE BIG PROBLEM--WHAT DO I DO ABOUT THE OVERKILL HORN??
EVEN IF IT IS ON THIS BLASTED PLANE--HOW DO I PUT THE KIBOSH ON IT--BEFORE IT BLOWS?!!

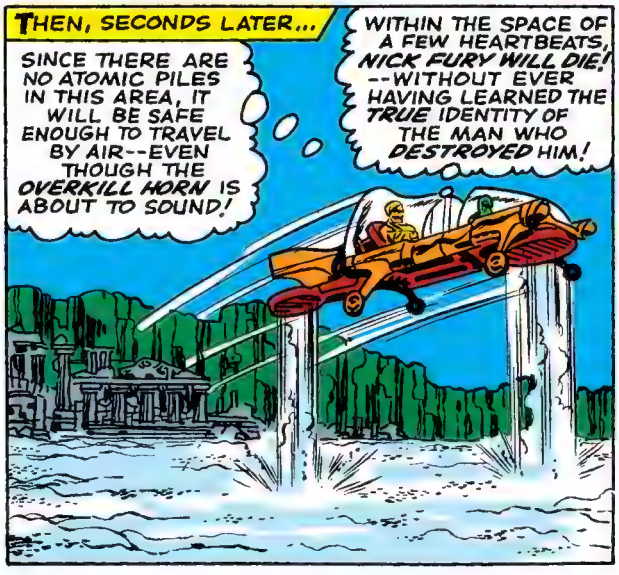
THAT'S WHY THE RADIO CONKED OUT! THEY WANTED ME TO MAKE MY GETAWAY IN THIS CRATE--THEY HAD IT ALL FIXED SO THAT I COULDN'T CONTACT SHIELD!
BUT, HYDRA AINT MESSIN' AROUND WITH A BUNCH'A KIDS! WE AINT LICKED YET!
I LEFT SITWELL IN CHARGE, BACK AT HQ--AND THAT BABY-FACED CORN-BALL HAS THE KNOW-HOW OF ANY DOZEN HYDRA HARPIES!

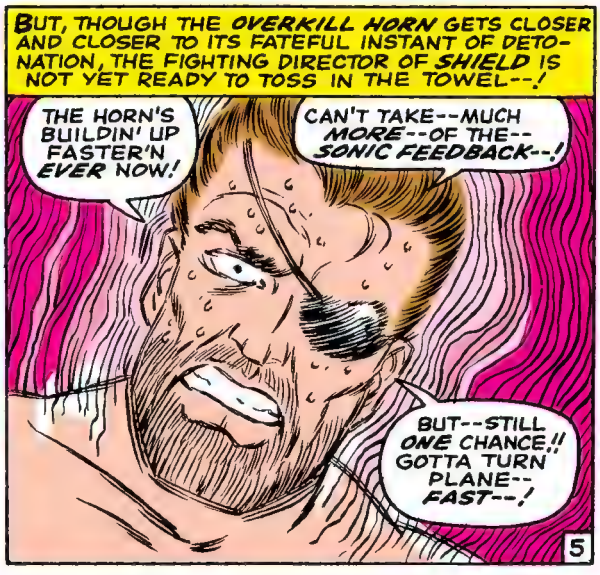

BUT THEN, THE HARD-BITTEN DIRECTOR OF SHIELD GLANCES AT THE SHIP'S SPECIALLY-DESIGNED AUDIOMETER--AND A COLD, ICY CHILL GRIPS HIS HEART AT THE SIGHT BEFORE HIM--
THE OVERKILL BLIPS!
IT MEANS THE HORN HAS STARTED TO BUILD UP ENERGY! IT'S LOADIN' ITS CIRCUITS --ABOUT TO DELIVER ITS BLAST!
AND ONCE IT GOES OFF--EVERY ATOMIC PILE ON EARTH GOES OFF WITH IT!
2

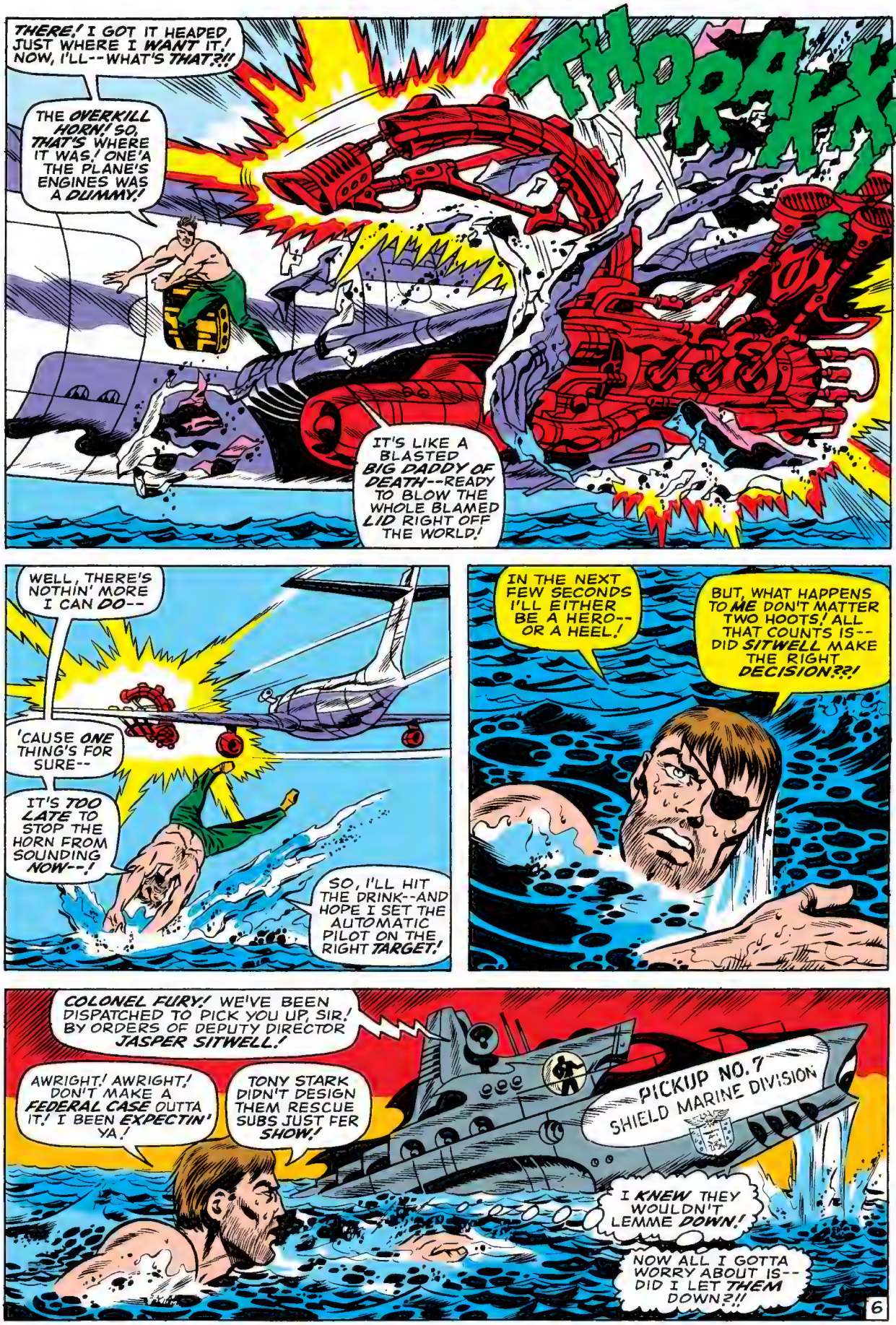

HOWEVER, SHIELD IS LARGER BY FAR THAN ANY SINGLE AGENT--AND, EVEN NICK FURY DOESN'T HAVE TO FACE HIS FRIGHTFUL PROBLEM ALONE--!
IT'S THE SIGNAL WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR! THEY'VE ACTIVATED THE OVERKILL HORN! ALERT ALL OUTPOSTS!
I ORDERED DUM DUM BACK TO THE HOSPITAL, GABE! SO IT'S UP TO US TO RAMROD THIS OPERATION!
ONE SLIP COULD MEAN THE DEATH OF MILLIONS OF UNSUSPECTING, INNOCENT PEOPLE WHEN THE ATOMIC PILES BLOW UP!
EVERYTHING'S SET FOR RETALIATORY ACTION!
AGENT SITWELL! I HAVE THE PENTAGON ON OUR HOT LINE! THEY'RE STANDING BY FOR ORDERS FROM SHIELD!
HAVE THEM MAINTAIN CONTINUAL VIGIL! KEEP THAT LINE OPEN AT ALL COSTS! THEY'RE TO BE COMPLETELY BRIEFED EVERY 120 SECONDS!
GABE! HAVE ORDNANCE STAND BY TO LAUNCH THE STRATO-MINE!
I'VE ALREADY DONE IT, JASP! BUT--HAVE YOU CONSIDERED THE POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES?
IT'S STILL UNTESTED! IT COULD IGNITE HALF OF THE ATMOSPHERE ABOVE US!
IT WAS FURY'S LAST COMMAND! WE'VE GOT TO CHANCE IT!
JASP! LOOK! THAT'S WHY THE HYDRA PLANE SIGNALLED US!
MAGNIFYING THE FOCUS ON IT FINALLY PAID OFF! IT'S HIM!
BUT, ACCORDING TO OUR CALCULATIONS, THE OVERKILL HORN IS RIGHT ON THE PLANE! THAT VERY SHIP IS OUR TARGET!
--NO MATTER WHO MAY BE ABOARD!
EVEN IF HIS NAME HAPPENS TO BE--NICK FURY!
HYDRA PLANNED IT THIS WAY! BY TRAPPING THE COLONEL IN THE SAME PLANE AS THE HORN, THEY FIGURED WE WOULDN'T GIVE THE DESTRUCT ORDER --EVEN IF WE TRACKED IT DOWN!
AGENT SITWELL! THE SIGNAL IS GETTING STRONGER! THAT PLANE MUST BE DESTROYED--WITHIN SECONDS!
IT'S YOUR DECISION!!
MAY THE LORD GIVE YOU STRENGTH!
ANY MAN HERE WOULD LAY DOWN HIS LIFE FOR NICK FURY!
BUT, THE LIVES OF UNTOLD MILLIONS ARE HANGING IN THE BALANCE! THERE CAN BE ONLY ONE DECISION--
BY THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME AS DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF SHIELD--UNDER AUTHORIZATION BY SPECIAL ACT OF CONGRESS--MY COMMAND IS--
LAUNCH THE STRATO-MINE!
3

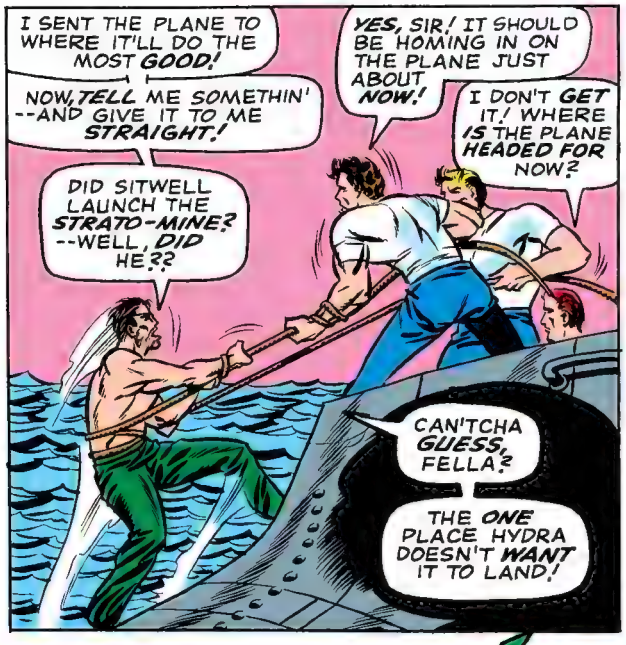
MEANWHILE, ABOVE THE MYSTERIOUS, LONG-DEAD CITY OF KARNOPOLIS, A SMALL HYDRA HOVER-LIMOUSINE SLOWLY DESCENDS FOR A LANDING--
WHOOSH!
HALT--AND BE RECOGNIZED! GIVE THE COUNTERSIGN--OR DIE!
HAIL HYDRA!
I HAVE BROUGHT THE SUPREME HYDRA'S AIR CAR AS ORDERED!
CUT OFF A LIMB, AND TWO MORE SHALL TAKE ITS PLACE!
HAIL HYDRA! I SHALL INFORM HIM!
HAS THE MOMENT OF OVERKILL OCCURRED YET?
NO, BUT BEFORE THE HOUR IS UP, ALL OF EARTH SHALL BE OURS!
ALL HYDRA UNITS ARE SAFELY STATIONED IN UNDERGROUND SHELTERS! THE MOMENT OF OVERKILL SHALL NOT FIND US UNPREPARED!
WHAT IS YOUR NEXT COMMAND, SUPREME ONE?
LET ALL AGENCIES OF HYDRA REMAIN AT THEIR ASSIGNED STATIONS!
AFTER THE HORN HAS SOUNDED, FOLLOW PLAN TAKE-OVER!
HAIL HYDRA! THE TIME HAS COME FOR YOU TO GIVE UP THE IDENTITY OF DON CABALLERO, AND ASSUME A NEW ROLE AMONGST MEN!
THIS PROTOTYPE PERSONAGE SUITS MY FANCY!
FROM THIS MOMENT FORTH, SUPREME HYDRA SHALL ASSUME THE IDENTITY OF EMIR ALI-BEY!
THUS, DON CABALLERO SHALL LIVE NO MORE!
AIDES! TO MY SIDE! HYDRA COMMANDS!
AVERT YOUR EYES, ALL!
NONE MAY KNOW THE TRUE IDENTITY OF SUPREME HYDRA--AND LIVE!
SUPREME ONE! YOUR HOVER-LIMOUSINE AWAITS ON THE SURFACE!
4

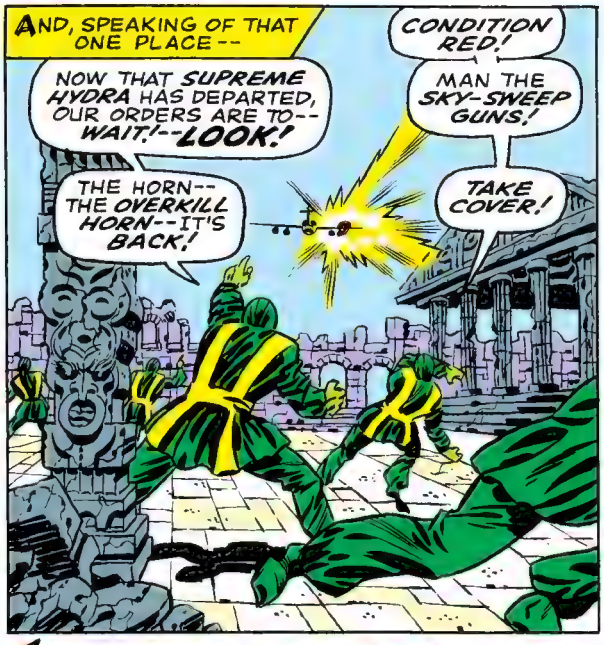

FASTER, YOU DOLTS! THERE ARE MANY TASKS AWAITING ME!
I MUST BE IN EGYPT BY NIGHTFALL!
EGYPT, MASTER?
HAVE YOU SO SOON FORGOTTEN?
OUR AGENTS IN EGYPT HAVE CAPTURED THE FLEEING TURNCOAT DAUGHTER OF YOUR FORMER SUPREME HYDRA--WHO NOW LIES DEAD--THANKS TO NICK FURY!
THOUGH SHE IS THE DAUGHTER OF MY PREDECESSOR, SHE MUST LEARN THAT NONE MAY BETRAY HYDRA!
AND SO, I TAKE MY LEAVE!
WHEN NEXT WE MEET AGAIN, ALL OF MANKIND SHALL BE ON ITS KNEES BEFORE THE POWER OF ETERNAL HYDRA!
HAIL HYDRA! IMMORTAL HYDRA! WE SHALL NEVER BE DESTROYED!
CUT OFF A LIMB, AND TWO MORE SHALL TAKE ITS PLACE!
WE SERVE NONE BUT THE MASTER--AS THE WORLD SHALL SOON SERVE US!
HAIL HYDRA!

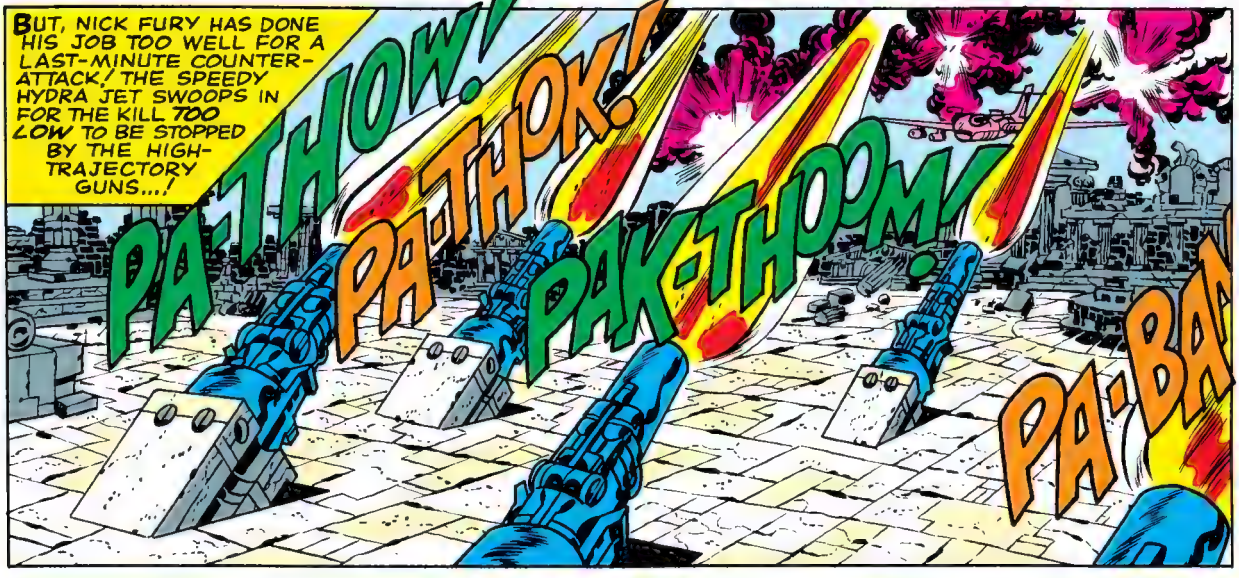

THEN, SECONDS LATER...
SINCE THERE ARE NO ATOMIC PILES IN THIS AREA, IT WILL BE SAFE ENOUGH TO TRAVEL BY AIR--EVEN THOUGH THE OVERKILL HORN IS ABOUT TO SOUND!
WITHIN THE SPACE OF A FEW HEARTBEATS, NICK FURY WILL DIE! --WITHOUT EVER HAVING LEARNED THE TRUE IDENTITY OF THE MAN WHO DESTROYED HIM!

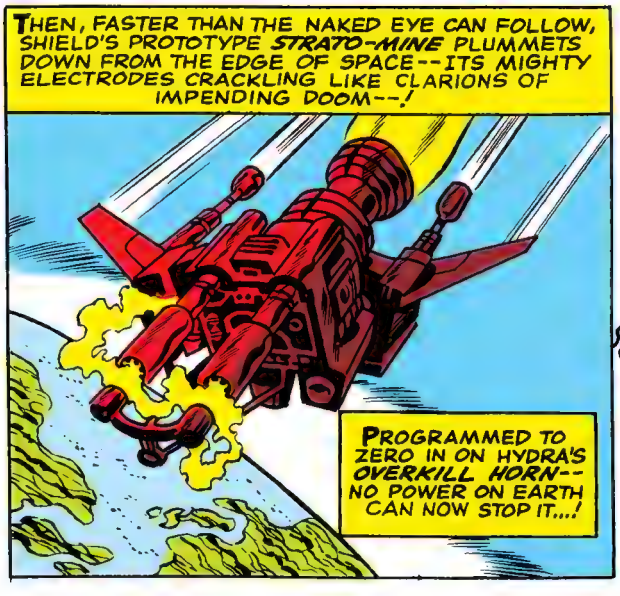

BUT, THOUGH THE OVERKILL HORN GETS CLOSER AND CLOSER TO ITS FATEFUL INSTANT OF DETONATION, THE FIGHTING DIRECTOR OF SHIELD IS NOT YET READY TO TOSS IN THE TOWEL--!
THE HORN'S BUILDIN' UP FASTER'N EVER NOW!
CAN'T TAKE--MUCH MORE--OF THE--SONIC FEEDBACK--!
BUT--STILL ONE CHANCE!! GOTTA TURN PLANE--FAST--!

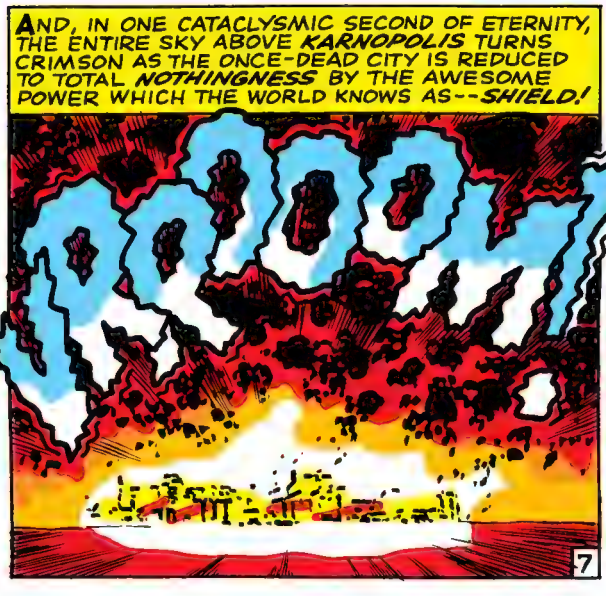

THERE! I GOT IT HEADED JUST WHERE I WANT IT! NOW, I'LL--WHAT'S THAT?!!
THE OVERKILL HORN! SO, THAT'S WHERE IT WAS! ONE'A THE PLANE'S ENGINES WAS A DUMMY!
THPRAKK
IT'S LIKE A BLASTED BIG DADDY OF DEATH--READY TO BLOW THE WHOLE BLAMED LID RIGHT OFF THE WORLD!
WELL, THERE'S NOTHIN' MORE I CAN DO--
'CAUSE ONE THING'S FOR SURE--
IT'S TOO LATE TO STOP THE HORN FROM SOUNDING NOW--!
SO, I'LL HIT THE DRINK--AND HOPE I SET THE AUTOMATIC PILOT ON THE RIGHT TARGET!
IN THE NEXT FEW SECONDS I'LL EITHER BE A HERO--OR A HEEL!
BUT, WHAT HAPPENS TO ME DON'T MATTER TWO HOOTS! ALL THAT COUNTS IS--DID SITWELL MAKE THE RIGHT DECISION?!!
COLONEL FURY! WE'VE BEEN DISPATCHED TO PICK YOU UP, SIR! BY ORDERS OF DEPUTY DIRECTOR JASPER SITWELL!
AWRIGHT! AWRIGHT! DON'T MAKE A FEDERAL CASE OUTTA IT! I BEEN EXPECTIN' YA!
TONY STARK DIDN'T DESIGN THEM RESCUE SUBS JUST FER SHOW!
PICKUP NO. 7 SHIELD MARINE DIVISION
I KNEW THEY WOULDN'T LEMME DOWN!
NOW ALL I GOTTA WORRY ABOUT IS--DID I LET THEM DOWN?!!


I SENT THE PLANE TO WHERE IT'LL DO THE MOST GOOD!
NOW, TELL ME SOMETHIN' --AND GIVE IT TO ME STRAIGHT!
DID SITWELL LAUNCH THE STRATO-MINE? --WELL, DID HE??
YES, SIR! IT SHOULD BE HOMING IN ON THE PLANE JUST ABOUT NOW!
I DON'T GET IT! WHERE IS THE PLANE HEADED FOR NOW?
CAN'TCHA GUESS, FELLA?
THE ONE PLACE HYDRA DOESN'T WANT IT TO LAND!


AND, SPEAKING OF THAT ONE PLACE --
NOW THAT SUPREME HYDRA HAS DEPARTED, OUR ORDERS ARE TO-- WAIT!--LOOK!
CONDITION RED!
MAN THE SKY-SWEEP GUNS!
THE HORN-- THE OVERKILL HORN--IT'S BACK!
TAKE COVER!

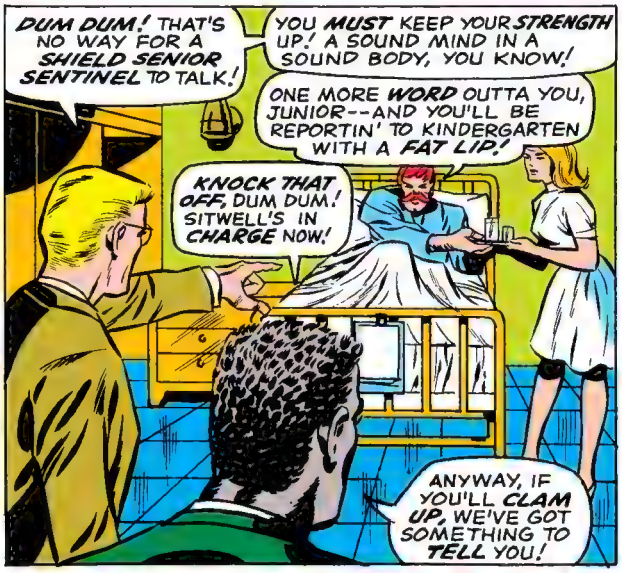

BUT, NICK FURY HAS DONE HIS JOB TOO WELL FOR A LAST-MINUTE COUNTER-ATTACK! THE SPEEDY HYDRA JET SWOOPS IN FOR THE KILL TOO LOW TO BE STOPPED BY THE HIGH-TRAJECTORY GUNS...!
PA-THOW!
PA-THOK!
PAK-THOOM!
PA-BA

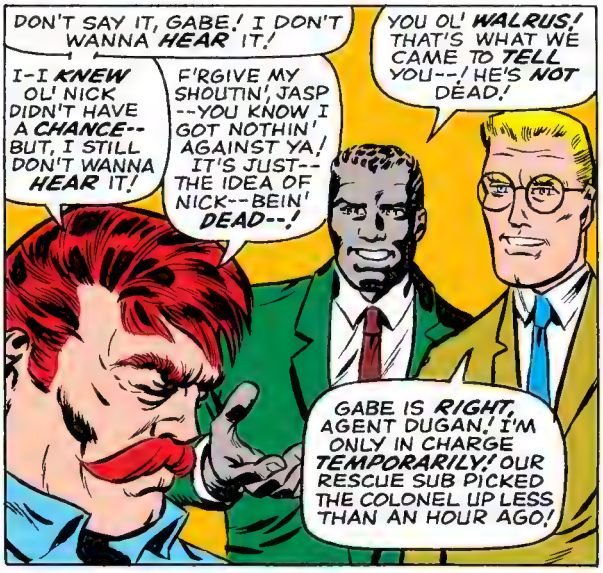

THEN, FASTER THAN THE NAKED EYE CAN FOLLOW, SHIELD'S PROTOTYPE STRATO-MINE PLUMMETS DOWN FROM THE EDGE OF SPACE--ITS MIGHTY ELECTRODES CRACKLING LIKE CLARIONS OF IMPENDING DOOM--!
PROGRAMMED TO ZERO IN ON HYDRA'S OVERKILL HORN-- NO POWER ON EARTH CAN NOW STOP IT...!

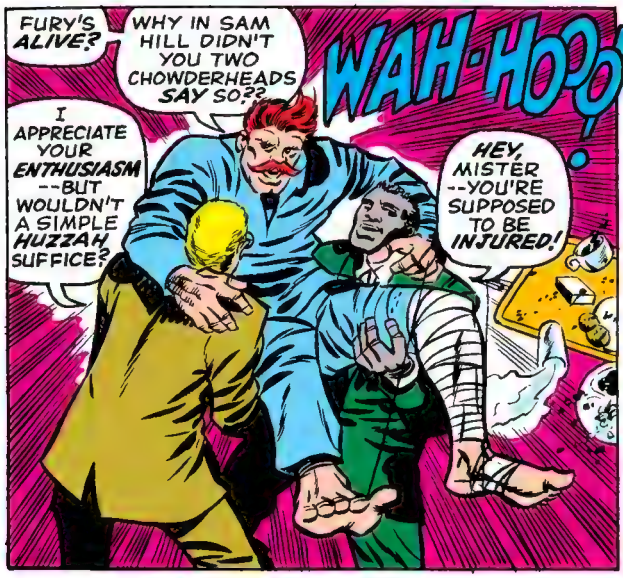

AND, IN ONE CATACLYSMIC SECOND OF ETERNITY, THE ENTIRE SKY ABOVE KARNOPOLIS TURNS CRIMSON AS THE ONCE-DEAD CITY IS REDUCED TO TOTAL NOTHINGNESS BY THE AWESOME POWER WHICH THE WORLD KNOWS AS--SHIELD!
KA-BOOOM!

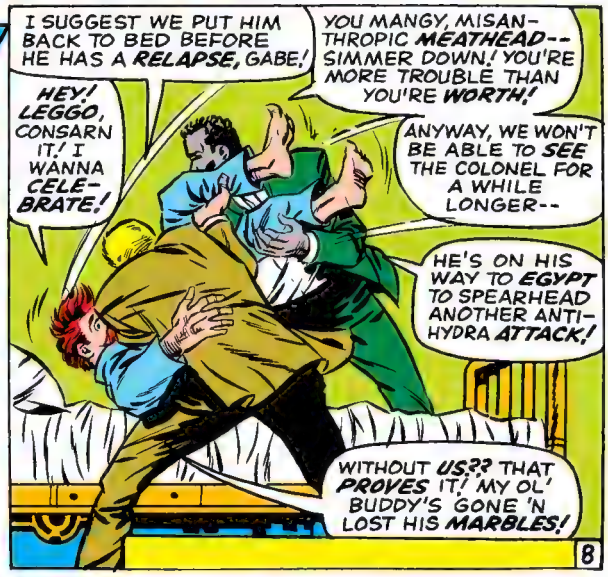
MINUTES LATER, AFTER THE SMOKE HAS CLEARED, A CRYPTIC MESSAGE REACHES SHIELD HQ--A MESSAGE PERTAINING TO A SMOKING PIT IN THE CENTER OF THE ROLLING SAHARA--A PIT WHICH ONCE HOUSED THE HOODED HARBINGERS OF EVIL WHO THOUGHT THE WORLD WAS THEIRS--!
SCRATCH ONE HYDRA OUTPOST! THE HORN'S BEEN SILENCED--FOREVER!

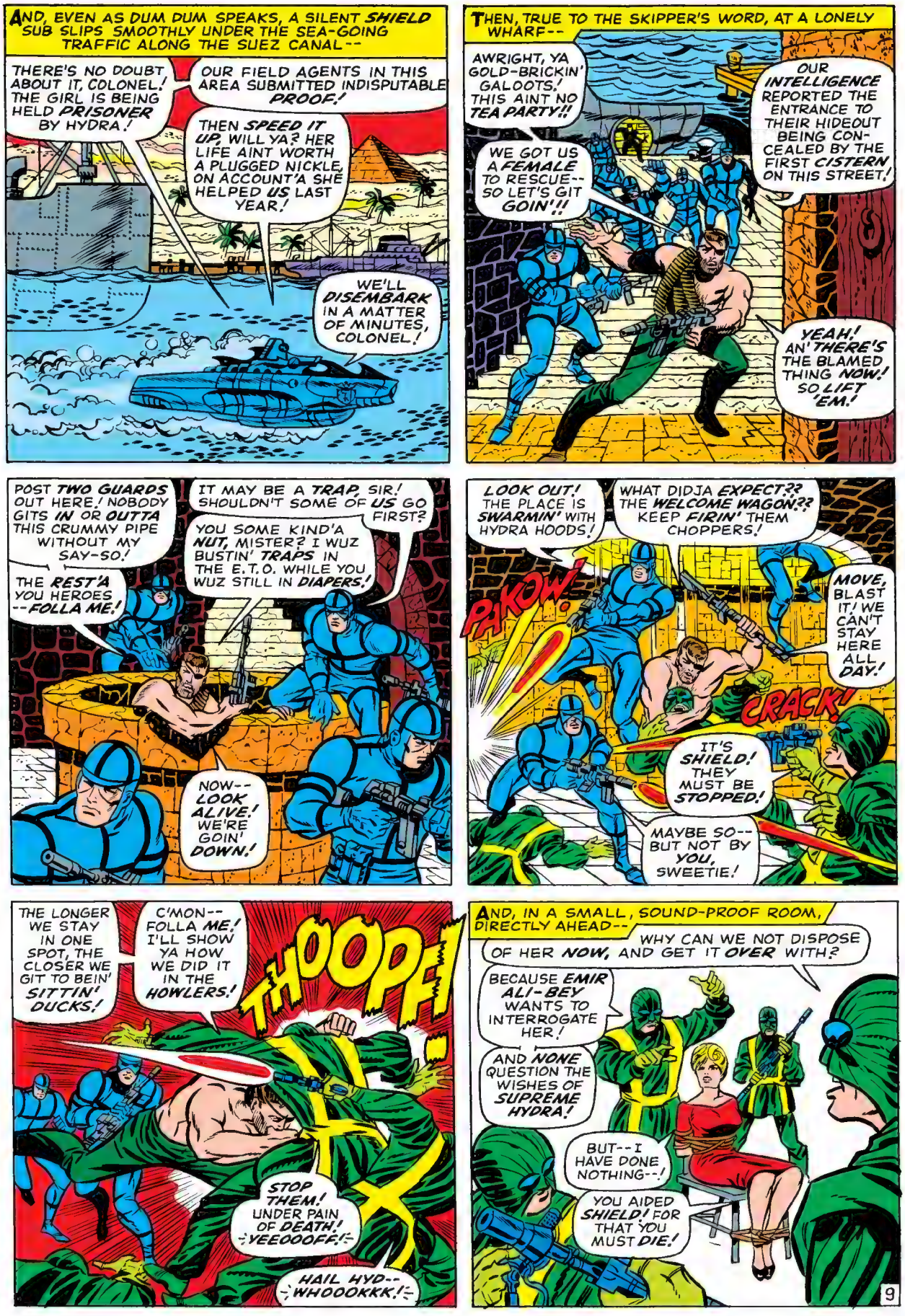
WHILE, IN A HEAVILY-GUARDED SHIELD INFIRMARY, WE FIND--
NOW SEE HERE, AGENT DUGAN! YOU CAN'T LIE THERE AND REFUSE TO EAT! STOP ACTING LIKE A CHILD!
GET OUTTA HERE, DOD BLAST IT! I DON'T WANT ANY OF THAT CHICKEN-SCRATCHIN' SLOP!
A FINE EXAMPLE YOU'RE SETTING FOR THE YOUNGER AGENTS!
TO BLAZES WITH THEM ROSY-CHEEKED RUNTS! THEY OUGHTTA STILL BE EATING PABLUM!

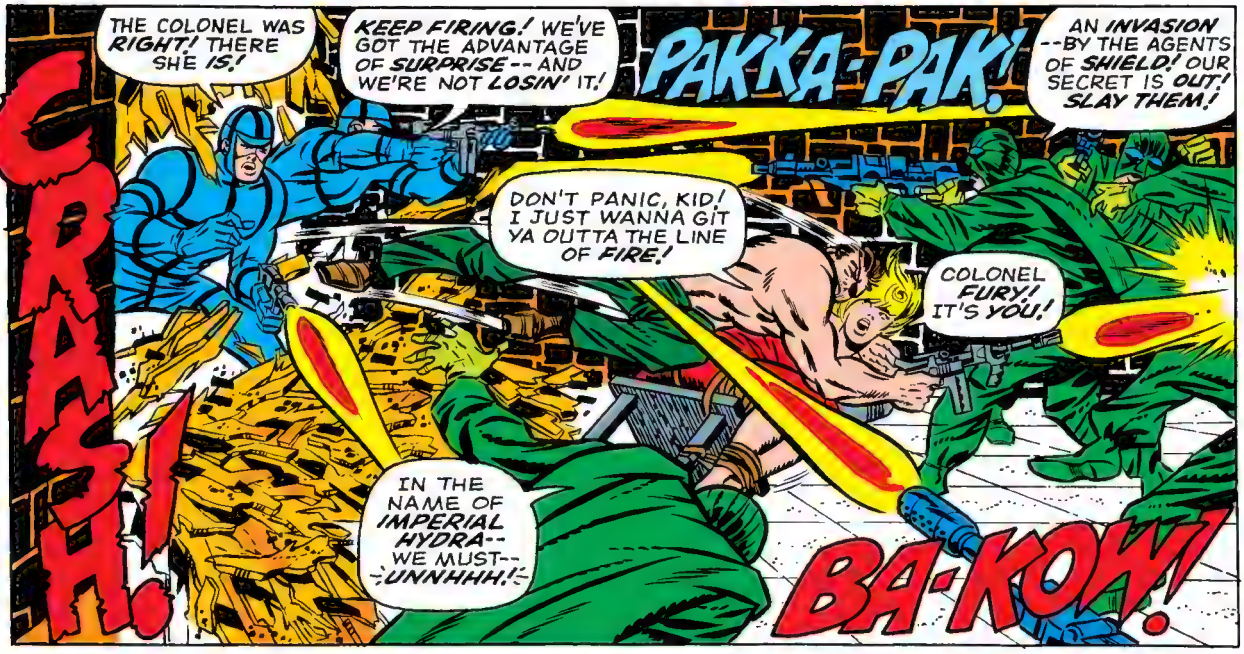

DUM DUM! THAT'S NO WAY FOR A SHIELD SENIOR SENTINEL TO TALK!
YOU MUST KEEP YOUR STRENGTH UP! A SOUND MIND IN A SOUND BODY, YOU KNOW!
ONE MORE WORD OUTTA YOU, JUNIOR--AND YOU'LL BE REPORTIN' TO KINDERGARTEN WITH A FAT LIP!
KNOCK THAT OFF, DUM DUM! SITWELL'S IN CHARGE NOW!
ANYWAY, IF YOU'LL CLAM UP, WE'VE GOT SOMETHING TO TELL YOU!

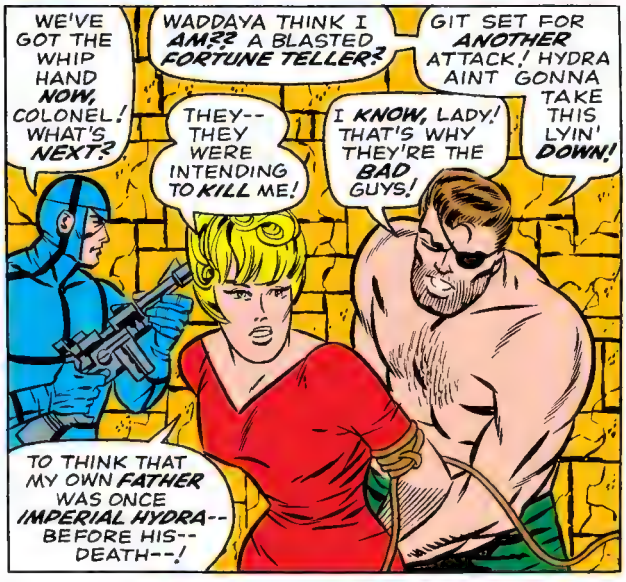

DON'T SAY IT, GABE! I DON'T WANNA HEAR IT!
YOU OL' WALRUS! THAT'S WHAT WE CAME TO TELL YOU--! HE'S NOT DEAD!
I-I KNEW OL' NICK DIDN'T HAVE A CHANCE--BUT, I STILL DON'T WANNA HEAR IT!
F'RGIVE MY SHOUTIN', JASP--YOU KNOW I GOT NOTHIN' AGAINST YA! IT'S JUST--THE IDEA OF NICK--BEIN' DEAD--!
GABE IS RIGHT, AGENT DUGAN! I'M ONLY IN CHARGE TEMPORARILY! OUR RESCUE SUB PICKED THE COLONEL UP LESS THAN AN HOUR AGO!

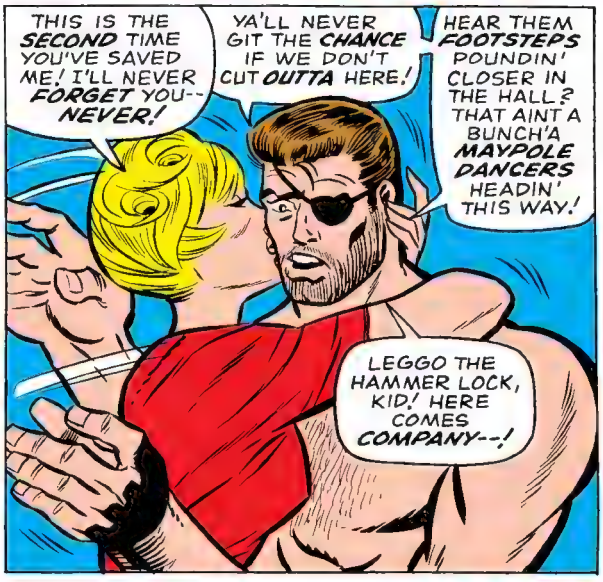

FURY'S ALIVE?
WHY IN SAM HILL DIDN'T YOU TWO CHOWDERHEADS SAY SO??
WAH-HOO!
I APPRECIATE YOUR ENTHUSIASM--BUT WOULDN'T A SIMPLE HUZZAH, SUFFICE?
HEY, MISTER--YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE INJURED!

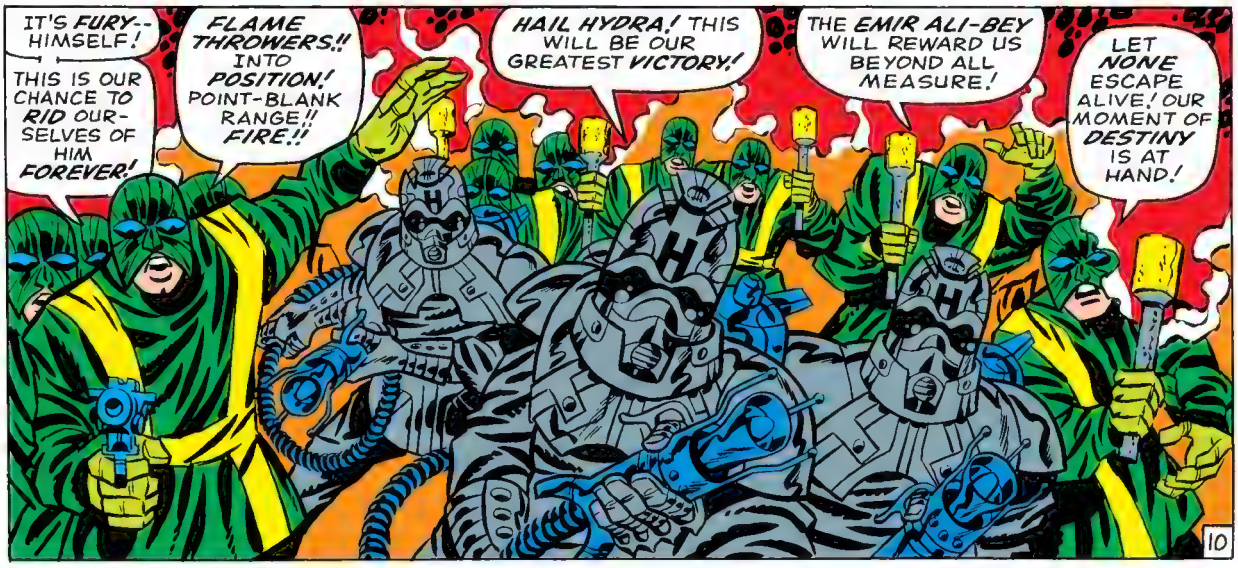

I SUGGEST WE PUT HIM BACK TO BED BEFORE HE HAS A RELAPSE, GABE!
YOU MANGY, MISANTHROPIC MEATHEAD--SIMMER DOWN! YOU'RE MORE TROUBLE THAN YOU'RE WORTH!
HEY! LEGGO, CONSARN IT! I WANNA CELEBRATE!
ANYWAY, WE WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE THE COLONEL FOR A WHILE LONGER--
HE'S ON HIS WAY TO EGYPT TO SPEARHEAD ANOTHER ANTI-HYDRA ATTACK!
WITHOUT US?? THAT PROVES IT! MY OL' BUDDY'S GONE 'N LOST HIS MARBLES!

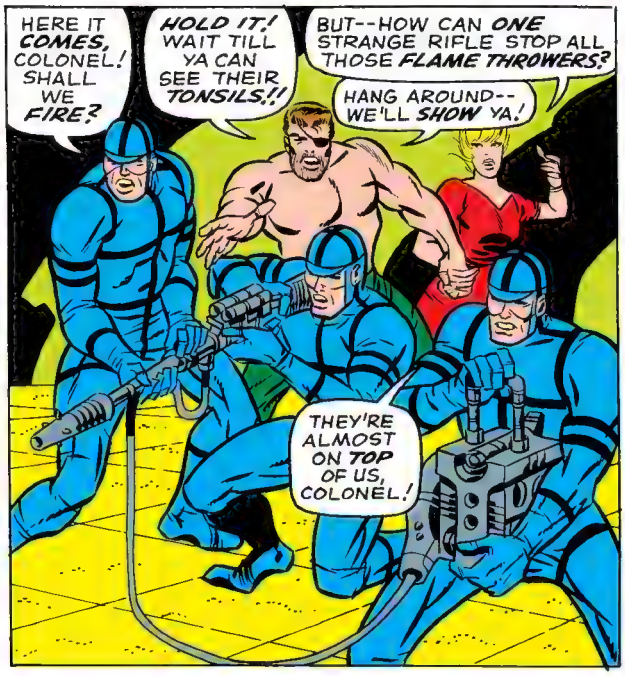

AND, EVEN AS DUM DUM SPEAKS, A SILENT SHIELD SUB SLIPS SMOOTHLY UNDER THE SEA-GOING TRAFFIC ALONG THE SUEZ CANAL--
THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, COLONEL! THE GIRL IS BEING HELD PRISONER BY HYDRA!
OUR FIELD AGENTS IN THIS AREA SUBMITTED INDISPUTABLE PROOF!
THEN SPEED IT UP, WILL YA? HER LIFE AINT WORTH A PLUGGED NICKLE, ON ACCOUNT'A SHE HELPED US LAST YEAR!
WE'LL DISEMBARK IN A MATTER OF MINUTES, COLONEL!
THEN, TRUE TO THE SKIPPER'S WORD, AT A LONELY WHARF--
AWRIGHT, YA GOLD-BRICKIN' GALOOTS! THIS AINT NO TEA PARTY!!
WE GOT US A FEMALE TO RESCUE-- SO LET'S GIT GOIN'!!
OUR INTELLIGENCE REPORTED THE ENTRANCE TO THEIR HIDEOUT BEING CONCEALED BY THE FIRST CISTERN ON THIS STREET!
YEAH! AN' THERE'S THE BLAMED THING NOW! SO LIFT 'EM!
POST TWO GUARDS OUT HERE! NOBODY GITS IN OR OUTTA THIS CRUMMY PIPE WITHOUT MY SAY-SO!
THE REST'A YOU HEROES --FOLLA ME!
IT MAY BE A TRAP, SIR! SHOULDN'T SOME OF US GO FIRST?
YOU SOME KIND'A NUT, MISTER? I WUZ BUSTIN' TRAPS IN THE E.T.O. WHILE YOU WUZ STILL IN DIAPERS!
NOW-- LOOK ALIVE! WE'RE GOIN' DOWN!
LOOK OUT! THE PLACE IS SWARMIN' WITH HYDRA HOODS!
WHAT DIDJA EXPECT?? THE WELCOME WAGON?? KEEP FIRIN' THEM CHOPPERS!
PAKOW!
MOVE, BLAST IT! WE CAN'T STAY HERE ALL DAY!
CRACK!
IT'S SHIELD! THEY MUST BE STOPPED!
MAYBE SO-- BUT NOT BY YOU, SWEETIE!
THE LONGER WE STAY IN ONE SPOT, THE CLOSER WE GIT TO BEIN' SITTIN' DUCKS!
C'MON-- FOLLA ME! I'LL SHOW YA HOW WE DID IT IN THE HOWLERS!
THOOP!
STOP THEM! UNDER PAIN OF DEATH! -YEEOOOFF!-
HAIL HYD-- -WHOOOKKK!-
AND, IN A SMALL, SOUND-PROOF ROOM, DIRECTLY AHEAD--
WHY CAN WE NOT DISPOSE OF HER NOW, AND GET IT OVER WITH?
BECAUSE EMIR ALI-BEY WANTS TO INTERROGATE HER!
AND NONE QUESTION THE WISHES OF SUPREME HYDRA!
BUT-- I HAVE DONE NOTHING--!
YOU AIDED SHIELD! FOR THAT YOU MUST DIE!

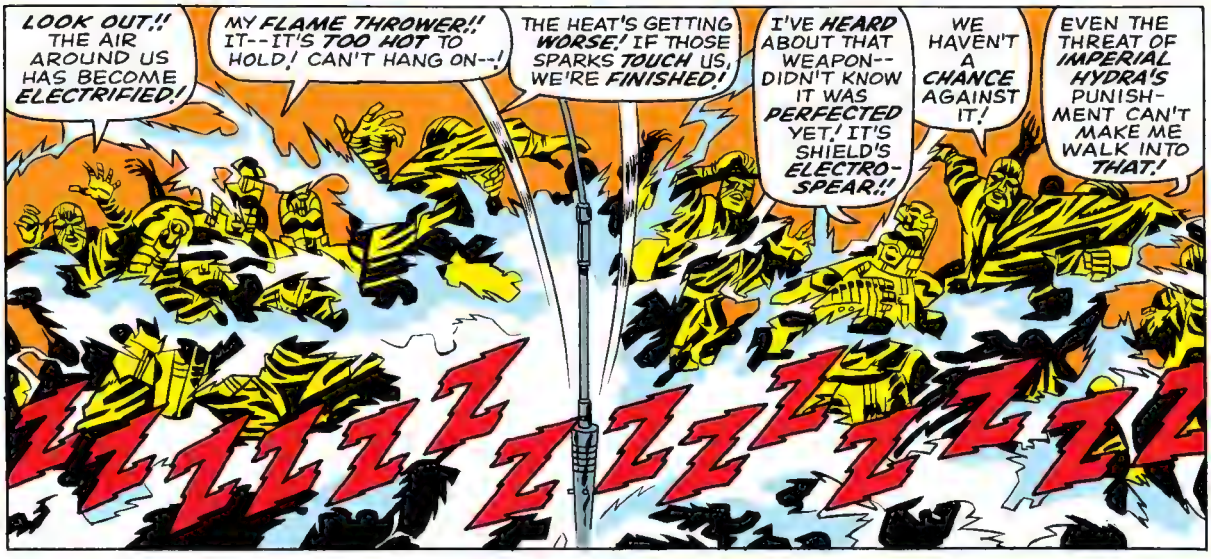

CRASH!
THE COLONEL WAS RIGHT! THERE SHE IS!
KEEP FIRING! WE'VE GOT THE ADVANTAGE OF SURPRISE -- AND WE'RE NOT LOSIN' IT!
PAKKA-PAK!
AN INVASION --BY THE AGENTS OF SHIELD! OUR SECRET IS OUT! SLAY THEM!
DON'T PANIC, KID! I JUST WANNA GIT YA OUTTA THE LINE OF FIRE!
COLONEL FURY! IT'S YOU!
IN THE NAME OF IMPERIAL HYDRA-- WE MUST-- -UNNHHH!-
BA-KOW!

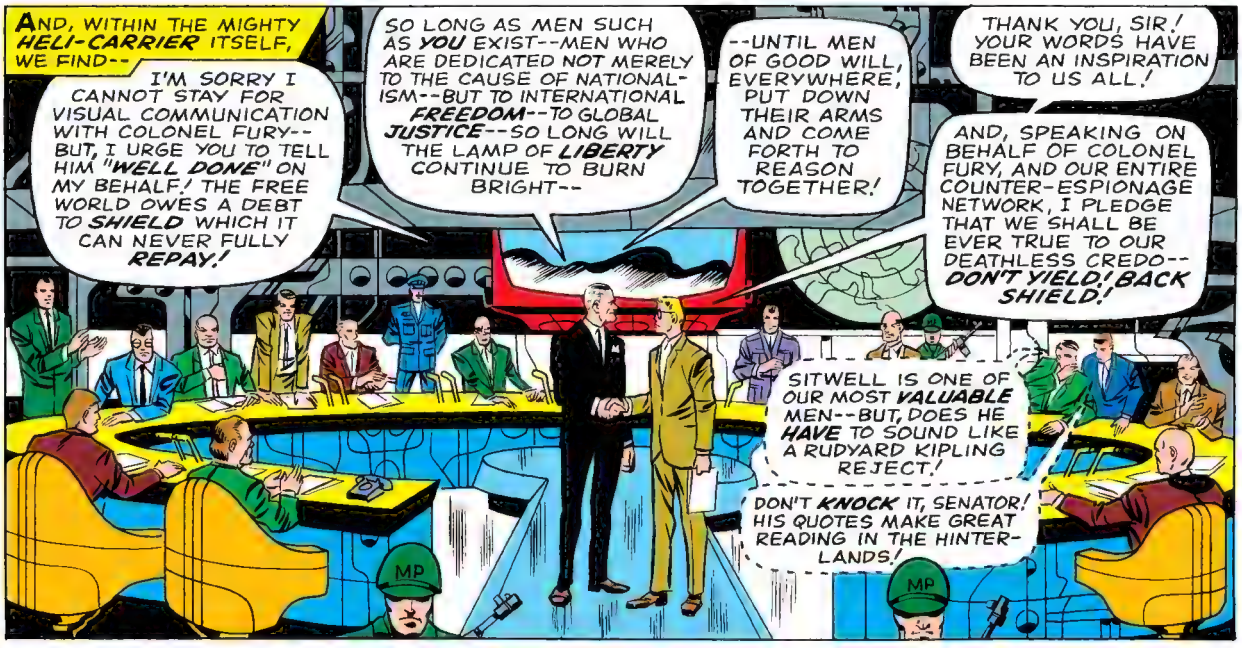

WE'VE GOT THE WHIP HAND NOW, COLONEL! WHAT'S NEXT?
WADDAYA THINK I AM?? A BLASTED FORTUNE TELLER?
GIT SET FOR ANOTHER ATTACK! HYDRA AINT GONNA TAKE THIS LYIN' DOWN!
THEY-- THEY WERE INTENDING TO KILL ME!
I KNOW, LADY! THAT'S WHY THEY'RE THE BAD GUYS!
TO THINK THAT MY OWN FATHER WAS ONCE IMPERIAL HYDRA-- BEFORE HIS-- DEATH--!

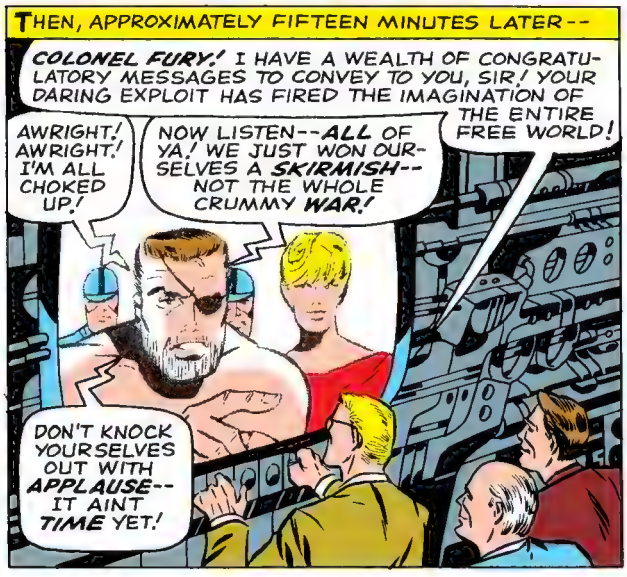

THIS IS THE SECOND TIME YOU'VE SAVED ME! I'LL NEVER FORGET YOU-- NEVER!
YA'LL NEVER GIT THE CHANCE IF WE DON'T CUT OUTTA HERE!
HEAR THEM FOOTSTEPS POUNDIN' CLOSER IN THE HALL? THAT AINT A BUNCH'A MAYPOLE DANCERS HEADIN' THIS WAY!
LEGGO THE HAMMER LOCK, KID! HERE COMES COMPANY--!

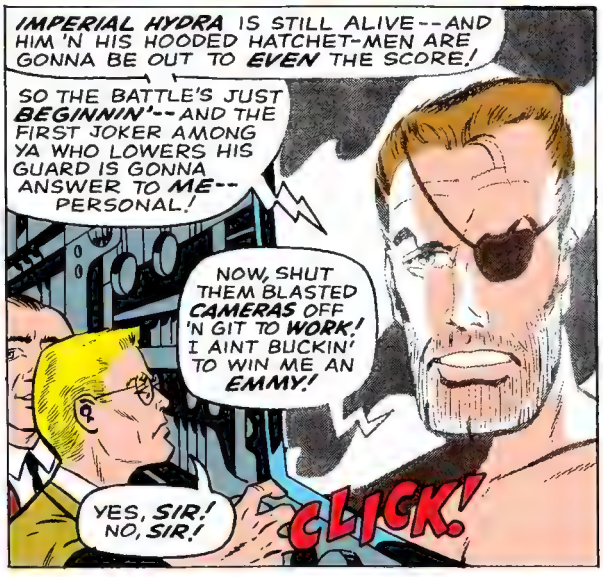

IT'S FURY-- HIMSELF!
THIS IS OUR CHANCE TO RID OUR-SELVES OF HIM FOREVER!
FLAME THROWERS!! INTO POSITION! POINT-BLANK RANGE!! FIRE!!
HAIL HYDRA! THIS WILL BE OUR GREATEST VICTORY!
THE EMIR ALI-BEY WILL REWARD US BEYOND ALL MEASURE!
LET NONE ESCAPE ALIVE! OUR MOMENT OF DESTINY IS AT HAND!

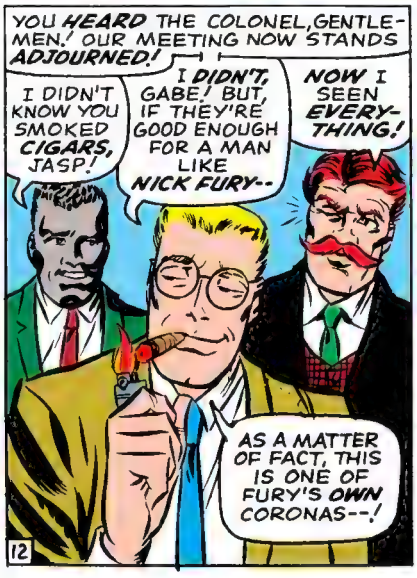


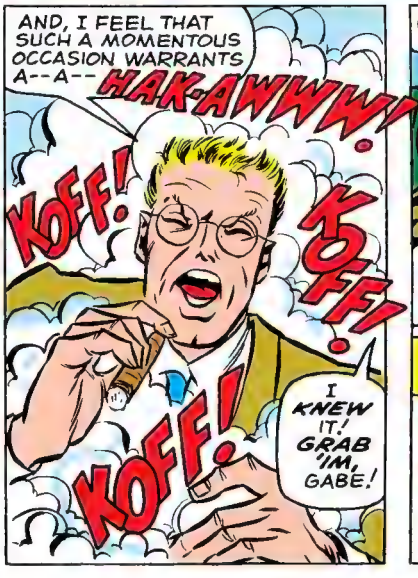

LOOK OUT!! THE AIR AROUND US HAS BECOME ELECTRIFIED!
MY FLAME THROWER!! IT--IT'S TOO HOT TO HOLD! CAN'T HANG ON--!
THE HEAT'S GETTING WORSE! IF THOSE SPARKS TOUCH US, WE'RE FINISHED!
I'VE HEARD ABOUT THAT WEAPON-- DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS PERFECTED YET! IT'S SHIELD'S ELECTRO-SPEAR!!
WE HAVEN'T A CHANCE AGAINST IT!
EVEN THE THREAT OF IMPERIAL HYDRA'S PUNISHMENT CAN'T MAKE ME WALK INTO THAT!
ZZZ


AND, WITHIN THE MIGHTY HELI-CARRIER ITSELF, WE FIND--
I'M SORRY I CANNOT STAY FOR VISUAL COMMUNICATION WITH COLONEL FURY--BUT, I URGE YOU TO TELL HIM "WELL DONE" ON MY BEHALF! THE FREE WORLD OWES A DEBT TO SHIELD WHICH IT CAN NEVER FULLY REPAY!
SO LONG AS MEN SUCH AS YOU EXIST--MEN WHO ARE DEDICATED NOT MERELY TO THE CAUSE OF NATIONALISM--BUT TO INTERNATIONAL FREEDOM--TO GLOBAL JUSTICE--SO LONG WILL THE LAMP OF LIBERTY CONTINUE TO BURN BRIGHT--
--UNTIL MEN OF GOOD WILL, EVERYWHERE, PUT DOWN THEIR ARMS AND COME FORTH TO REASON TOGETHER!
THANK YOU, SIR! YOUR WORDS HAVE BEEN AN INSPIRATION TO US ALL!
AND, SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF COLONEL FURY, AND OUR ENTIRE COUNTER-ESPIONAGE NETWORK, I PLEDGE THAT WE SHALL BE EVER TRUE TO OUR DEATHLESS CREDO--DON'T YIELD! BACK SHIELD!
SITWELL IS ONE OF OUR MOST VALUABLE MEN--BUT, DOES HE HAVE TO SOUND LIKE A RUDYARD KIPLING REJECT!
DON'T KNOCK IT, SENATOR! HIS QUOTES MAKE GREAT READING IN THE HINTERLANDS!
MP
MP


THEN, APPROXIMATELY FIFTEEN MINUTES LATER--
COLONEL FURY! I HAVE A WEALTH OF CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES TO CONVEY TO YOU, SIR! YOUR DARING EXPLOIT HAS FIRED THE IMAGINATION OF THE ENTIRE FREE WORLD!
AWRIGHT! AWRIGHT! I'M ALL CHOKED UP!
NOW LISTEN--ALL OF YA! WE JUST WON OURSELVES A SKIRMISH--NOT THE WHOLE CRUMMY WAR!
DON'T KNOCK YOURSELVES OUT WITH APPLAUSE--IT AINT TIME YET!


IMPERIAL HYDRA IS STILL ALIVE--AND HIM 'N HIS HOODED HATCHET-MEN ARE GONNA BE OUT TO EVEN THE SCORE!
SO THE BATTLE'S JUST BEGINNIN'--AND THE FIRST JOKER AMONG YA WHO LOWERS HIS GUARD IS GONNA ANSWER TO ME--PERSONAL!
NOW, SHUT THEM BLASTED CAMERAS OFF 'N GIT TO WORK! I AINT BUCKIN' TO WIN ME AN EMMY!
YES, SIR! NO, SIR!
CLICK!


YOU HEARD THE COLONEL, GENTLEMEN! OUR MEETING NOW STANDS ADJOURNED!
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU SMOKED CIGARS, JASP!
I DIDN'T, GABE! BUT, IF THEY'RE GOOD ENOUGH FOR A MAN LIKE NICK FURY--
NOW I SEEN EVERYTHING!
AS A MATTER OF FACT, THIS IS ONE OF FURY'S OWN CORONAS--!
12


AND, I FEEL THAT SUCH A MOMENTOUS OCCASION WARRANTS A--A--
HAK-AWWW!
KOFF!
KOFF!
KOFF!
I KNEW IT! GRAB 'IM, GABE!

GENTLEMEN--I HAVE JUST REALIZED--THERE IS ONLY ONE--NICK FURY--!
WE COULD'A TOLD YOU THAT--
A LONG TIME AGO!
NEXT:
HIDING PLACE!

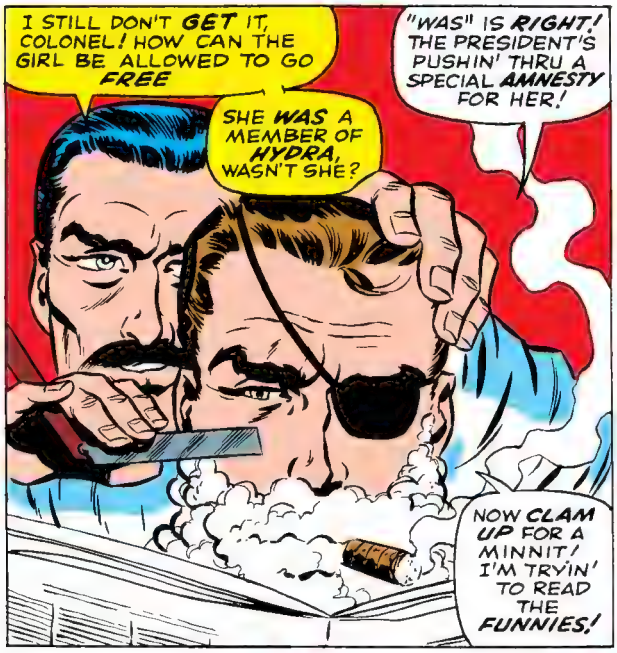
STRANGE TALES
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
NICK FURY, AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D.
DOCTOR STRANGE
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
12¢ IND.
153 FEB
STERANKO

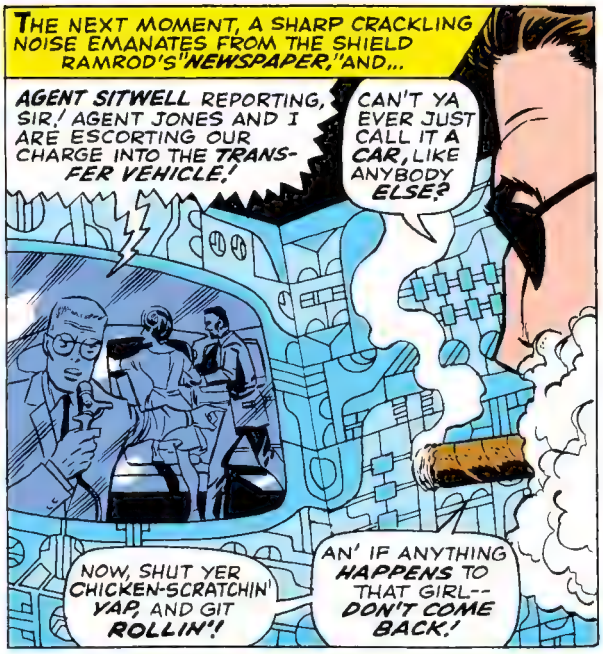
# NICK FURY, AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D.!

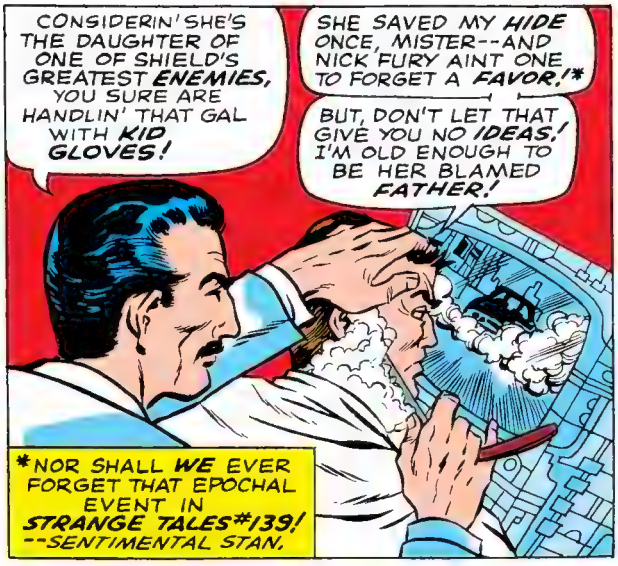
SUPREME HEADQUARTERS INTERNATIONAL ESPIONAGE LAW-ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

# "The HIDING PLACE!"

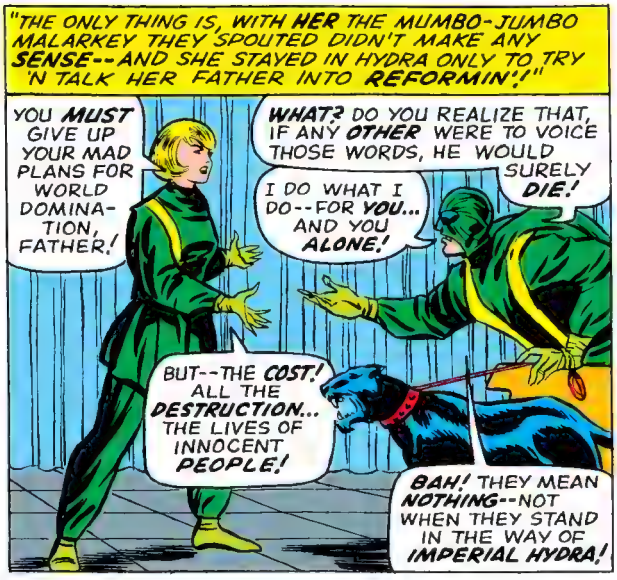
IN THE AFTER-MATH OF COMBAT, THERE ARE A NUMBER OF FRINGE BENEFITS THAT GO ALONG WITH THE POST OF DIRECTOR OF SHIELD... AND, ONE OF THESE IS AN OCCASIONAL FREE SHAVE...
A REAL SHAME ABOUT THAT EGYPTIAN CITY BEING OBLITERATED, ISN'T IT, COLONEL FURY?
YEAH--I'M ALL CHOKED UP ABOUT IT--'SPECIALLY SINCE THAT'S WHERE THE HQ OF HYDRA WAS LOCATED!
IT'S JUST TOO BAD THE BIG CHEESE HIMSELF WASN'T AROUND TO GIT IN ON THE BLASTED FIREWORKS!
BUT SURELY, SIR, SHIELD'S SMASHING OF KARNOPOLIS WILL KEEP THE SUPREME HYDRA OUT OF ACTION FOR A WHILE!
DON'T YOU BELIEVE IT, SISTER...
Daily GLOBE
MYSTERY BLAST DESTROYS DESERT OUTPOST!
REMEMBER... WE RESCUED THE DAUGHTER OF THE FIRST HYDRA CHIEF FROM HIM AN' HIS CUTTHROATS...
AN' THEY'LL NEVER LET UP TILL THEY GIT EVEN WITH HER FOR BETRAYIN' 'EM!
LEST WE FORGET:
IN THE RESOUNDING, RHAPSODICAL RHETORIC OF THE IRREPRESSIBLE IRVING FORBUSH:
DON'T YIELD-- BACK SHIELD!
SELDOM-EQUALLED EDITING BY STAN LEE
SELDOM-SURPASSED SCRIPTING BY ROY THOMAS
SELDOM-LACKING LAYOUTS BY JACK KIRBY
SELDOM-RIVALED RENDERING BY JIM STERANKO
SELDOM-LEGIBLE LETTERING BY ARTIE SIMEK


I STILL DON'T GET IT, COLONEL! HOW CAN THE GIRL BE ALLOWED TO GO FREE
SHE WAS A MEMBER OF HYDRA, WASN'T SHE?
"WAS" IS RIGHT! THE PRESIDENT'S PUSHIN' THRU A SPECIAL AMNESTY FOR HER!
NOW CLAM UP FOR A MINNIT! I'M TRYIN' TO READ THE FUNNIES!


THE NEXT MOMENT, A SHARP CRACKLING NOISE EMANATES FROM THE SHIELD RAMROD'S "NEWSPAPER," AND...
AGENT SITWELL REPORTING, SIR! AGENT JONES AND I ARE ESCORTING OUR CHARGE INTO THE TRANSFER VEHICLE!
CAN'T YA EVER JUST CALL IT A CAR, LIKE ANYBODY ELSE?
NOW, SHUT YER CHICKEN-SCRATCHIN' YAP, AND GIT ROLLIN'!
AN' IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO THAT GIRL-- DON'T COME BACK!


CONSIDERIN' SHE'S THE DAUGHTER OF ONE OF SHIELD'S GREATEST ENEMIES, YOU SURE ARE HANDLIN' THAT GAL WITH KID GLOVES!
SHE SAVED MY HIDE ONCE, MISTER--AND NICK FURY AINT ONE TO FORGET A FAVOR!*
BUT, DON'T LET THAT GIVE YOU NO IDEAS! I'M OLD ENOUGH TO BE HER BLAMED FATHER!
*NOR SHALL WE EVER FORGET THAT EPOCHAL EVENT IN STRANGE TALES #139! --SENTIMENTAL STAN.

"HER NAME'S LAURA BROWN... AND HER OLD MAN WAS THE FIRST HEAD OF HYDRA! SHE HERSELF BECAME ITS FIRST AND ONLY FEMALE MEMBER!"
HAIL HYDRA! IMMORTAL HYDRA, WE SHALL NEVER BE DESTROYED!
CUT OFF A LIMB, AND TWO MORE SHALL TAKE ITS PLACE!
WE SERVE NONE BUT THE MASTER-- AS THE WORLD SHALL SOON SERVE US!
HAIL HYDRA!


"THE ONLY THING IS, WITH HER THE MUMBO-JUMBO MALARKEY THEY SPOUTED DIDN'T MAKE ANY SENSE--AND SHE STAYED IN HYDRA ONLY TO TRY 'N TALK HER FATHER INTO REFORMIN'!"
YOU MUST GIVE UP YOUR MAD PLANS FOR WORLD DOMINATION, FATHER!
WHAT? DO YOU REALIZE THAT, IF ANY OTHER WERE TO VOICE THOSE WORDS, HE WOULD SURELY DIE!
I DO WHAT I DO--FOR YOU... AND YOU ALONE!
BUT--THE COST! ALL THE DESTRUCTION... THE LIVES OF INNOCENT PEOPLE!
BAH! THEY MEAN NOTHING--NOT WHEN THEY STAND IN THE WAY OF IMPERIAL HYDRA!

"FINALLY, WHEN I WAS CAPTURED, SHE SAW THAT NOTHIN' SHORT OF TOTAL DEFEAT WOULD FINISH HER OLD MAN'S NUTTY PIPEDREAM, SO SHE HELPED ME ESCAPE..."
KEEP GOING, FURY! IF YOU STOP FOR ANYTHING, WE'RE BOTH DOOMED!
DON'T WORRY, LADY... I WASN'T EXACTLY PLANNIN' TO HANG AROUND TAKIN' IN THE SIGHTS!
BUT, IF DUM DUM AND HIS GOLD-BRICKIN' MEATHEADS DON'T GET HERE FAST...
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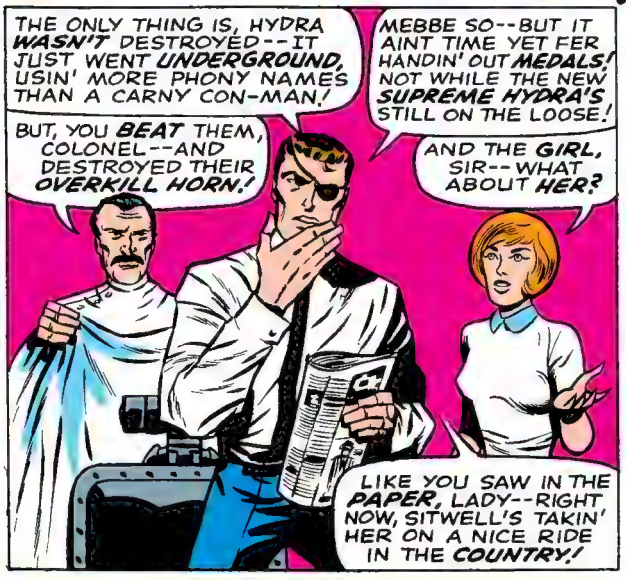
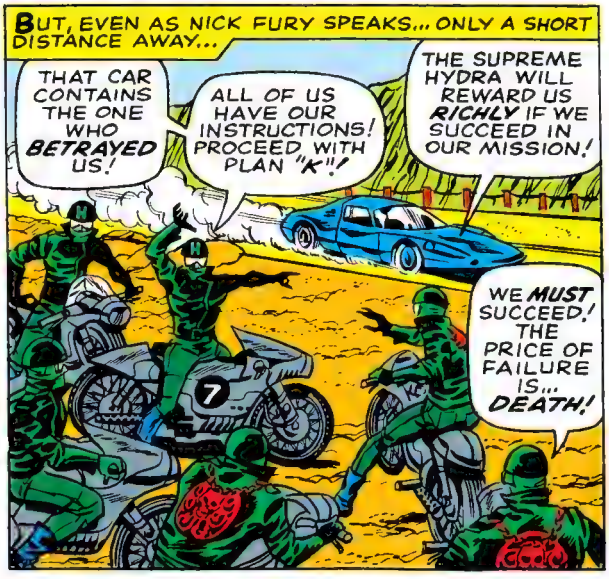
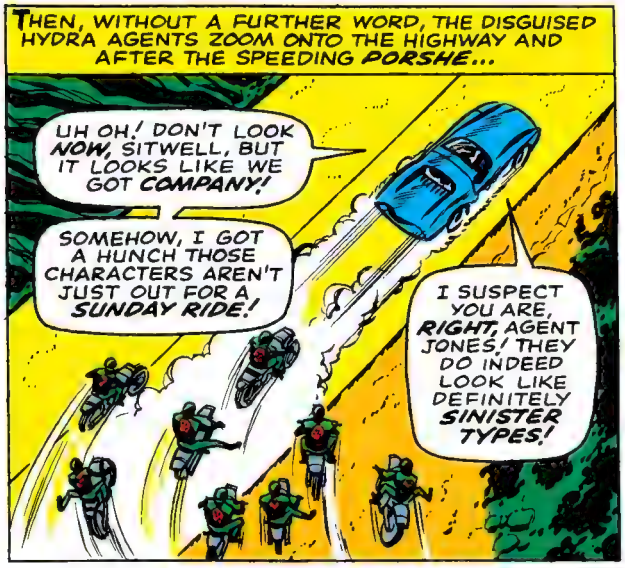
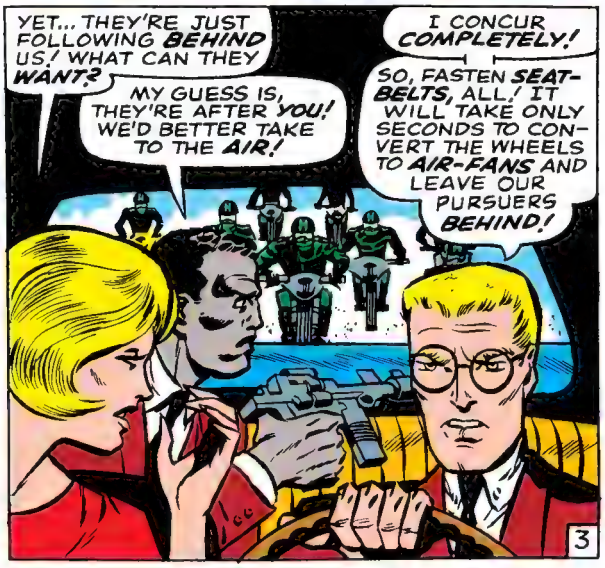
"BUT, LUCKY FOR THIS EX-COMMANDO, DUM DUM DID SHOW!"
C'MON, NICK--LET'S GO GET 'EM HOWLER STYLE!
YEAH--IT'S TOO BAD WE DIDN'T HAVE SOME'A THESE FANCY POPGUNS BACK IN THE E.T.O.!
KRAK!
STOP THEM! HAIL HYD--
-UNNNHH!-
THIS IS THE LAST OF 'EM! ONLY SUPREME HYDRA HIM-SELF IS LEFT!
PTOW!

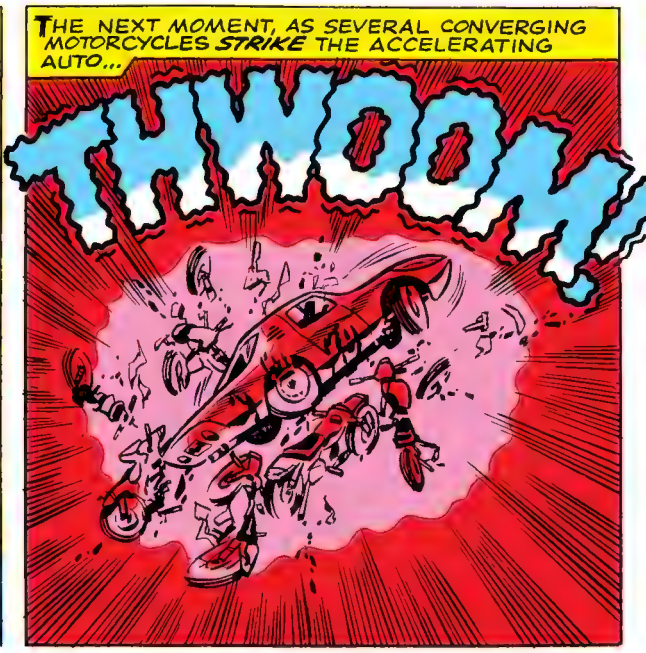

THE ONLY THING IS, HYDRA WASN'T DESTROYED--IT JUST WENT UNDERGROUND, USIN' MORE PHONY NAMES THAN A CARNY CON-MAN!
MEBBE SO--BUT IT AINT TIME YET FER HANDIN' OUT MEDALS! NOT WHILE THE NEW SUPREME HYDRA'S STILL ON THE LOOSE!
BUT, YOU BEAT THEM, COLONEL--AND DESTROYED THEIR OVERKILL HORN!
AND THE GIRL, SIR--WHAT ABOUT HER?
LIKE YOU SAW IN THE PAPER, LADY--RIGHT NOW, SITWELL'S TAKIN' HER ON A NICE RIDE IN THE COUNTRY!

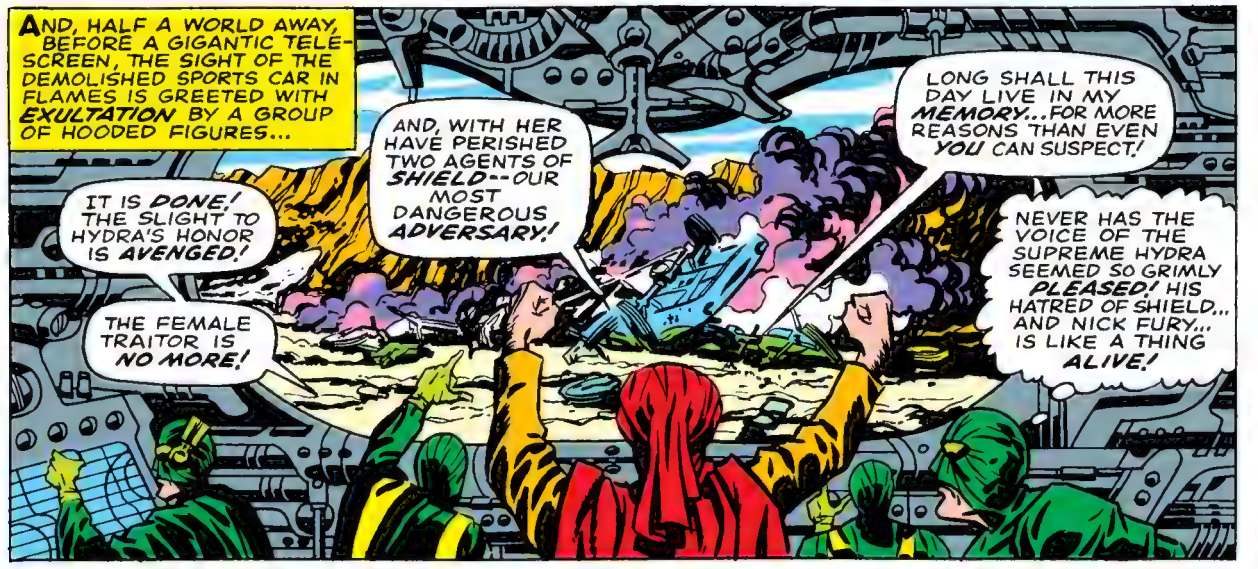

BUT, EVEN AS NICK FURY SPEAKS... ONLY A SHORT DISTANCE AWAY...
THAT CAR CONTAINS THE ONE WHO BETRAYED US!
ALL OF US HAVE OUR INSTRUCTIONS! PROCEED WITH PLAN "K"!
THE SUPREME HYDRA WILL REWARD US RICHLY IF WE SUCCEED IN OUR MISSION!
WE MUST SUCCEED! THE PRICE OF FAILURE IS... DEATH!

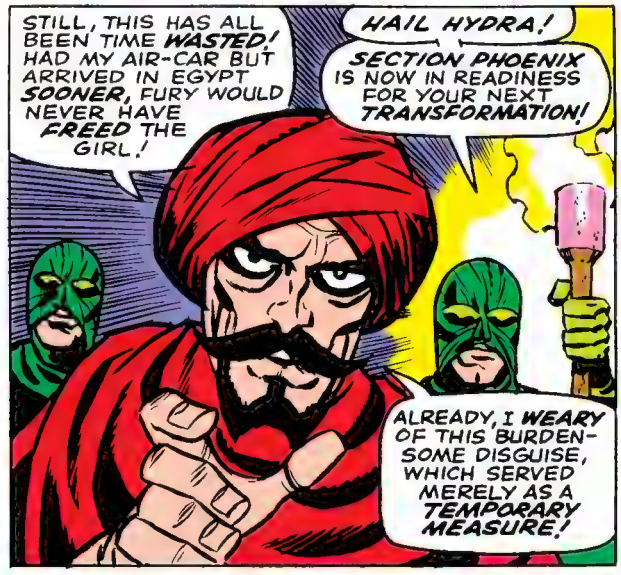

THEN, WITHOUT A FURTHER WORD, THE DISGUISED HYDRA AGENTS ZOOM ONTO THE HIGHWAY AND AFTER THE SPEEDING PORSHE...
UH OH! DON'T LOOK NOW, SITWELL, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE WE GOT COMPANY!
SOMEHOW, I GOT A HUNCH THOSE CHARACTERS AREN'T JUST OUT FOR A SUNDAY RIDE!
I SUSPECT YOU ARE, RIGHT, AGENT JONES! THEY DO INDEED LOOK LIKE DEFINITELY SINISTER TYPES!


YET... THEY'RE JUST FOLLOWING BEHIND US! WHAT CAN THEY WANT?
MY GUESS IS, THEY'RE AFTER YOU! WE'D BETTER TAKE TO THE AIR!
I CONCUR COMPLETELY!
SO, FASTEN SEAT-BELTS, ALL! IT WILL TAKE ONLY SECONDS TO CON-VERT THE WHEELS TO AIR-FANS AND LEAVE OUR PURSUERS BEHIND!

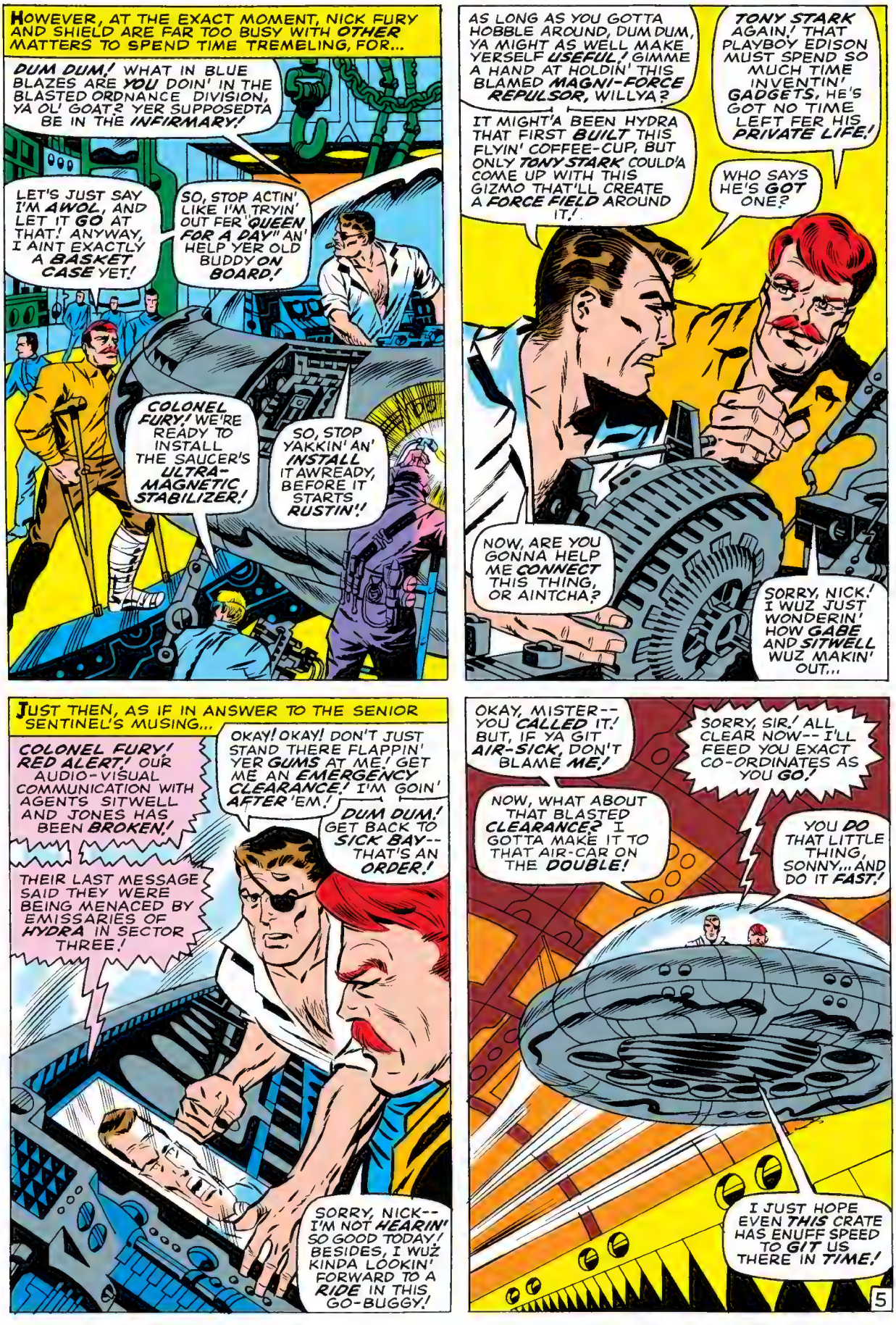
BUT, THAT MATTER OF SECONDS IS PRECISELY WHAT THE TWO SHIELD STALWARTS DON'T HAVE, FOR...
NOW! SET 'CYCLES ON AUTOMATIC AND... LEAP!
HAIL HYDRA!
HEY--WHAT GIVES? THOSE BIKES ARE SPEEDING UP... AND THEIR RIDERS ARE JUMPIN' OFF!
LOOK OUT! THEY'RE GOING TO HIT--!


THE NEXT MOMENT, AS SEVERAL CONVERGING MOTORCYCLES STRIKE THE ACCELERATING AUTO...
THWOOM!


AND, HALF A WORLD AWAY, BEFORE A GIGANTIC TELE-SCREEN, THE SIGHT OF THE DEMOLISHED SPORTS CAR IN FLAMES IS GREETED WITH EXULTATION BY A GROUP OF HOODED FIGURES...
IT IS DONE! THE SLIGHT TO HYDRA'S HONOR IS AVENGED!
AND, WITH HER HAVE PERISHED TWO AGENTS OF SHIELD--OUR MOST DANGEROUS ADVERSARY!
LONG SHALL THIS DAY LIVE IN MY MEMORY... FOR MORE REASONS THAN EVEN YOU CAN SUSPECT!
THE FEMALE TRAITOR IS NO MORE!
NEVER HAS THE VOICE OF THE SUPREME HYDRA SEEMED SO GRIMLY PLEASED! HIS HATRED OF SHIELD... AND NICK FURY... IS LIKE A THING ALIVE!


STILL, THIS HAS ALL BEEN TIME WASTED! HAD MY AIR-CAR BUT ARRIVED IN EGYPT SOONER, FURY WOULD NEVER HAVE FREED THE GIRL!
HAIL HYDRA!
SECTION PHOENIX IS NOW IN READINESS FOR YOUR NEXT TRANSFORMATION!
ALREADY, I WEARY OF THIS BURDEN-SOME DISGUISE, WHICH SERVED MERELY AS A TEMPORARY MEASURE!

NOW, THE TIME HAS COME FOR THE MOST IMPORTANT OF THE MILLION LIVES OF SUPREME HYDRA!
FOR, IT SHALL BE IN MY NEW IDENTITY THAT I WILL GAIN MY MOST PRIZED VICTORY OF ALL... THE UTTER DEFEAT OF NICK FURY!
THEN, LET THE MEN OF SHIELD TREMBLE IN FEAR... AT THE WRATH OF... HYDRA!


HOWEVER, AT THE EXACT MOMENT, NICK FURY AND SHIELD ARE FAR TOO BUSY WITH OTHER MATTERS TO SPEND TIME TREMELING, FOR...
DUM DUM! WHAT IN BLUE BLAZES ARE YOU DOIN' IN THE BLASTED ORDNANCE DIVISION, YA OL' GOAT? YER SUPPOSEDTA BE IN THE INFIRMARY!
LET'S JUST SAY I'M AWOL, AND LET IT GO AT THAT! ANYWAY, I AINT EXACTLY A BASKET CASE YET!
SO, STOP ACTIN' LIKE I'M TRYIN' OUT FER "QUEEN FOR A DAY" AN' HELP YER OLD BUDDY ON BOARD!
COLONEL FURY! WE'RE READY TO INSTALL THE SAUCER'S ULTRA-MAGNETIC STABILIZER!
SO, STOP YAKKIN' AN' INSTALL IT AWREADY, BEFORE IT STARTS RUSTIN'!
AS LONG AS YOU GOTTA HOBBLE AROUND, DUM DUM, YA MIGHT AS WELL MAKE YERSELF USEFUL! GIMME A HAND AT HOLDIN' THIS BLAMED MAGNI-FORCE REPULSOR, WILLYA?
IT MIGHT'A BEEN HYDRA THAT FIRST BUILT THIS FLYIN' COFFEE-CUP, BUT ONLY TONY STARK COULD'A COME UP WITH THIS GIZMO THAT'LL CREATE A FORCE FIELD AROUND IT!
TONY STARK AGAIN! THAT PLAYBOY EDISON MUST SPEND SO MUCH TIME INVENTIN' GADGETS, HE'S GOT NO TIME LEFT FER HIS PRIVATE LIFE!
WHO SAYS HE'S GOT ONE?
NOW, ARE YOU GONNA HELP ME CONNECT THIS THING, OR AINTCHA?
SORRY, NICK! I WUZ JUST WONDERIN' HOW GABE AND SITWELL WUZ MAKIN' OUT...
JUST THEN, AS IF IN ANSWER TO THE SENIOR SENTINEL'S MUSING...
COLONEL FURY! RED ALERT! OUR AUDIO-VISUAL COMMUNICATION WITH AGENTS SITWELL AND JONES HAS BEEN BROKEN!
THEIR LAST MESSAGE SAID THEY WERE BEING MENACED BY EMISSARIES OF HYDRA IN SECTOR THREE!
OKAY! OKAY! DON'T JUST STAND THERE FLAPPIN' YER GUMS AT ME! GET ME AN EMERGENCY CLEARANCE! I'M GOIN' AFTER 'EM!
DUM DUM! GET BACK TO SICK BAY--THAT'S AN ORDER!
SORRY, NICK--I'M NOT HEARIN' SO GOOD TODAY! BESIDES, I WUZ KINDA LOOKIN' FORWARD TO A RIDE IN THIS GO-BUGGY!
OKAY, MISTER--YOU CALLED IT! BUT, IF YA GIT AIR-SICK, DON'T BLAME ME!
NOW, WHAT ABOUT THAT BLASTED CLEARANCE? I GOTTA MAKE IT TO THAT AIR-CAR ON THE DOUBLE!
SORRY, SIR! ALL CLEAR NOW--I'LL FEED YOU EXACT CO-ORDINATES AS YOU GO!
YOU DO THAT LITTLE THING, SONNY...AND DO IT FAST!
I JUST HOPE EVEN THIS CRATE HAS ENUFF SPEED TO GIT US THERE IN TIME!
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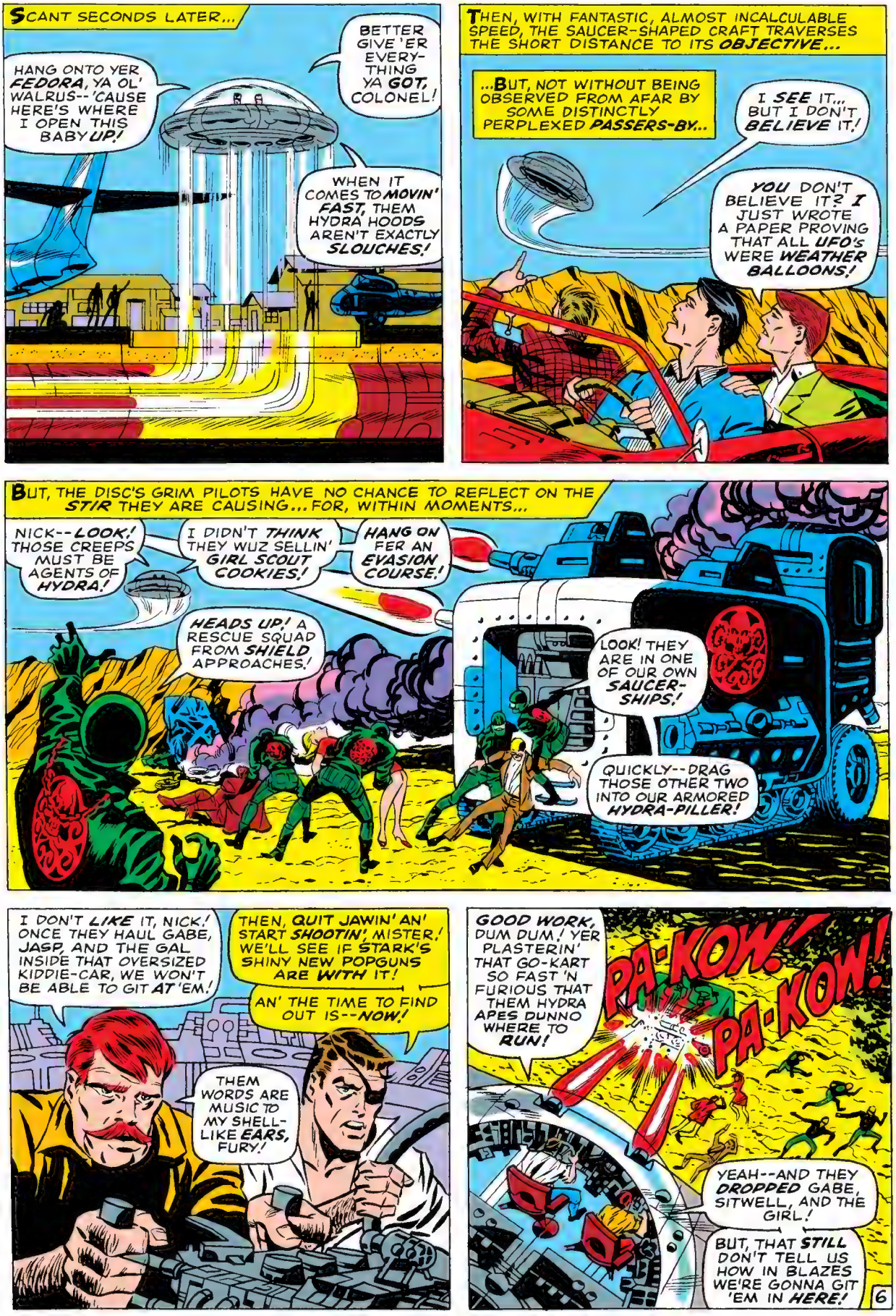
SCANT SECONDS LATER...
HANG ONTO YER FEDORA, YA OL' WALRUS--'CAUSE HERE'S WHERE I OPEN THIS BABY UP!
BETTER GIVE 'ER EVERY-THING YA GOT, COLONEL!
WHEN IT COMES TO MOVIN' FAST, THEM HYDRA HOODS AREN'T EXACTLY SLOUCHES!
THEN, WITH FANTASTIC, ALMOST INCALCULABLE SPEED, THE SAUCER-SHAPED CRAFT TRAVERSES THE SHORT DISTANCE TO ITS OBJECTIVE...
...BUT, NOT WITHOUT BEING OBSERVED FROM AFAR BY SOME DISTINCTLY PERPLEXED PASSERS-BY...
I SEE IT... BUT I DON'T BELIEVE IT!
YOU DON'T BELIEVE IT? I JUST WROTE A PAPER PROVING THAT ALL UFO's WERE WEATHER BALLOONS!
BUT, THE DISC'S GRIM PILOTS HAVE NO CHANCE TO REFLECT ON THE STIR THEY ARE CAUSING... FOR, WITHIN MOMENTS...
NICK--LOOK! THOSE CREEPS MUST BE AGENTS OF HYDRA!
I DIDN'T THINK THEY WUZ SELLIN' GIRL SCOUT COOKIES!
HANG ON FER AN EVASION COURSE!
HEADS UP! A RESCUE SQUAD FROM SHIELD APPROACHES!
LOOK! THEY ARE IN ONE OF OUR OWN SAUCER-SHIPS!
QUICKLY--DRAG THOSE OTHER TWO INTO OUR ARMORED HYDRA-PILLER!
I DON'T LIKE IT, NICK! ONCE THEY HAUL GABE, JASP, AND THE GAL INSIDE THAT OVERSIZED KIDDIE-CAR, WE WON'T BE ABLE TO GIT AT 'EM!
THEN, QUIT JAWIN' AN' START SHOOTIN', MISTER! WE'LL SEE IF STARK'S SHINY NEW POPGUNS ARE WITH IT!
AN' THE TIME TO FIND OUT IS--NOW!
THEM WORDS ARE MUSIC TO MY SHELL-LIKE EARS, FURY!
GOOD WORK, DUM DUM! YER PLASTERIN' THAT GO-KART SO FAST 'N FURIOUS THAT THEM HYDRA APES DUNNO WHERE TO RUN!
PA-KOW!
PA-KOW!
YEAH--AND THEY DROPPED GABE, SITWELL, AND THE GIRL!
BUT, THAT STILL DON'T TELL US HOW IN BLAZES WE'RE GONNA GIT 'EM IN HERE!

BUT NOW IT'S TIME TO TURN THE CLOCK BACK A FEW MINUTES, AND VISIT THE HYDRA SECTION KNOWN BY THE CODE NAME OF PHOENIX...
THE NEW SPACE-WARP MISSILE IS READY, MASTER!
THEN HURRY, DOLT! I MUST BE AT MY DESTINATION WITHIN MINUTES!
THE PRELIMINARY WORK IS FINISHED, SUPREME HYDRA!
AGENT 'O'--LOWER THE EPIDERM-MASK, AT ONCE!
THEN...
THERE IS NOT A MOMENT TO WASTE! TURN THE THERMO-INDICATOR TO FULL INTENSITY!
I HAVE ALREADY DONE SO, SUPREME ONE!
WITHIN SECONDS, YOU SHALL HAVE A NEW FACE--PRECISELY THE ONE WHICH YOU PREVIOUSLY DIRECTED US TO PREPARE FOR YOU!
AND, JUST THIRTY SECONDS LATER...
DOES THE DISGUISE MEET YOUR SPECIFICATIONS, MASTER?
AH--EXCELLENT! I AM NOW THE EXACT DOUBLE OF THE ONE WHO LIES CHAINED IN OUR DUNGEON!
THE SUPREME HYDRA SHALL REMEMBER YOU FOR THIS, WHEN THE WORLD IS OURS!
AND NOW, A CHANGE TO OCCIDENTAL CLOTHING--AND EMIR-ALI-BEY IS NO MORE!
IN HIS STEAD, THERE STANDS ONE WHO SHALL BE THE INSTRUMENT OF HYDRA'S FINAL VICTORY OVER SHIELD!
BUT, THINK! WHAT OF THE DANGER? DO YOU DARE GO ON THIS MISSION ALONE?
BAH--SUCH THOUGHTS ARE FOR WEAKLINGS AND FOOLS! I SHALL NOT BE DISCOVERED...
FOR, I HAVE FOUND...THE ULTIMATE HIDING PLACE!
ALMOST AT ONCE, THE AMAZING SPACE-WARP MISSILE ROARS.. INTO THE SUB-STRATOSPHERE--AND, WITH IT, A DEADLY PLOT IS LAUNCHED...
RAROOM!
TOO LONG HAVE NICK FURY AND HIS INFERNAL ORGANIZATION BLOCKED THE PLANS OF HYDRA! BUT NOW, THAT TIME IS PAST!
THE HOUR OF HYDRA HAS COME AT LAST--AND NOTHING THAT THE HUMAN RACE CAN DO WILL CEASE OUR RELENTLESS MARCH TOWARD WORLD DOMINATION!

BUT, EVEN AS THE MYSTERIOUS SUPREME HYDRA CONTEMPLATES HIS THOUGHTS OF CONQUEST, TWO HARD-HITTING EX-HOWLERS HAVE OTHER IDEAS ON THE MATTER...
HEY, FURY--WHERE IN HOLY HANNAH DO YA THINK YOU'RE GOIN' WITHOUT YER BUDDY?
PTHAK
STAY PUT RIGHT WHERE YA ARE, YA OL' WALRUS!
I'M GOIN' AFTER OUR LITTLE LOST LAMBS--AN' I WANNA HEAR THAT BLASTED CANNON COVERIN' ME!
POKKETTA POKKETTA
BTOOM!
-UNNH!- THAT WUZ CLOSE! THE HOODS IN THAT TANK ARE GITTIN' MY RANGE!
DUM DUM! EITHER ZERO IN ON THAT PILLBOX ON WHEELS--
OR ELSE, GIT SET TO ELECT A NEW DIRECTOR OF SHIELD!
NICK, IN TWENTY YEARS, I'VE NEVER KNOWN YA TO DO NUTHIN' BUT COMPLAIN!
THERE--HOWZAT FER SHOOTIN' FISH IN A BARREL?
THRAK
THAT'S MORE LIKE IT!
GABE--HOW'RE YOU AN' SITWELL? STRONG ENUFF TA DO SOME FANCY SHOOTIN'?
YEAH! LUCKY FOR US, THE ARMOR ON OUR SPECIAL CAR TOOK MOST OF THE IMPACT OF THE BLAST!
BUT, LOOK OUT! THE CYCLISTS! THEY'RE STILL NEARBY!
HOWEVER, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT SHIELD'S LUCK HAS RUN OUT... FOR, THE NEXT INSTANT...
NOW--WHILE THEIR ATTENTION IS RIVETED TO THE HYDRA-PILLER--
FIRE!!
PTOW!
THEY ARE SITTING DUCKS! THEIR DOOM IS SEALED!
COLONEL--AGENT JONES AND I ARE STILL TOO WEAK TO STAND! YOU MUST ABANDON US--TO SAVE THE GIRL!
SHUDDUP, JUNIOR! WHEN I NEED YER ADVICE, I'LL SEND UP A SMOKE SIGNAL!
JUST KEEP PEPPERIN' THEM HYDRA J.D.'s, AN START EDGIN' BACK TOWARDS THE SAUCER!
BRAKKA BRAKKA
KRAK!
WE'RE GITTIN' OUTTA THIS TOGETHER-- OR WE AINT GITTIN' OUT AT ALL!
THOK
THAT'S JUST WHAT I'M AFRAID OF, COLONEL!
IF WE DON'T GET SOME HELP, IT'S GONNA BE DAISY-PUSHIN' TIME!

YET, UNKNOWN TO GABE, AT THAT VERY SECOND, A DESPERATE DUM DUM DUGAN IS IN URGENT CONTACT WITH THE COMPLEX COMMUNICATIONS CENTER AT SHIELD HEADQUARTERS...
STAND BY! REPEAT, STAND BY! PRIORITY A-1 CLEARANCE FOR MESSAGE FROM AGENT DUGAN!
YOU BETTER BELIEVE IT, SONNY! STOP FLAPPIN' YER GUMS AN' LEMME TALK-- I AINT EXACTLY GOT ALL DAY!
THE COLONEL AN' ME ARE INVOLVED IN A RESCUE MISSION IN SECTOR 3-A2! BUT, FROM THE WAY THINGS'RE GOIN', IT LOOKS LIKE WE COULD USE A LITTLE RESCUIN' OURSELVES!
SO, GIT OFFA YER TAILS AN' SEND US SOME REINFORCEMENTS --ON THE DOUBLE! OVER AND OUT!
MESSAGE RECEIVED! YOU HEARD WHAT THE MAN SAID-- SO GET A MOVE ON!
WELL, AGENT BRONSON, IT LOOKS AS IF YOU GOT BACK FROM YOUR VACATION JUST IN TIME TO GET IN ON SOME ACTION!
NOTHING COULD SUIT ME BETTER, MAJOR! WE'LL MAKE THOSE CREEPS PLAY THE GAME THE SHIELD WAY!
HAH! IF THIS FOOL ONLY KNEW HE IS SPEAKING TO THE SUPREME HYDRA HIMSELF!
THAT'S THE SPIRIT, BRONSON! REPORT TO THE ARMORY, AT ONCE!
NOTHING COULD STOP ME NOW!
THUS, MOMENTS LATER, AN UNSUSPECTING OFFICER OF SHIELD ARMS THE VERY MAN WHO HAS SWORN AN UNHOLY OATH TO DESTROY IT...
HERE YOU GO--AND MAKE EVERY SHOT COUNT!
DON'T WORRY-- I WILL!
GOOD! THERE GO OTHER AGENTS--RUSHING TOWARDS THE VEHICLE WHICH WILL CARRY ME TO NICK FURY! I MUST NOT MAKE A FALSE MOVE NOW!
C'MON, BRONSON-- THE ROCKET SLED LEAVES IN TWENTY-FIVE SECONDS!
SO--THIS IS WHAT THE INTERIOR OF SHIELD HEADQUARTERS LOOKS LIKE! LITTLE DO THEY SUSPECT THAT SOON IT WILL BE THE IMPREGNABLE FORTRESS OF HYDRA!
ONLY MY GENIUS COULD HAVE CARRIED OFF SUCH A PLAN-- USING THE IDENTITY OF A VACATIONING SHIELD AGENT THAT MY MEN CAPTURED--TO INFILTRATE THE VERY STRONGHOLD OF THE ENEMY!
WHAT'RE YA THINKIN' ABOUT, BRONSON? GLAD TO BE BACK IN HARNESS?
YES-- ESPECIALLY SINCE I CAN AID IN THE RESCUE OF COLONEL FURY!
FOR, HIM--OF ALL MEN--DO I MOST WISH TO DESTROY PERSONALLY!
WHOOSH
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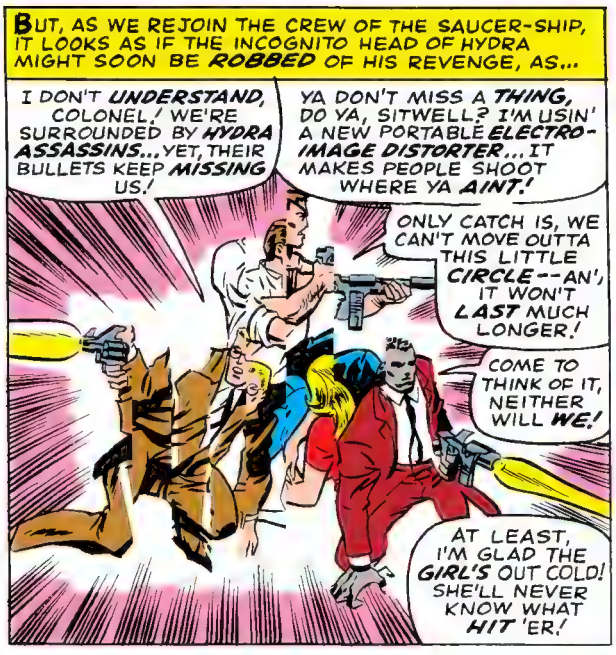
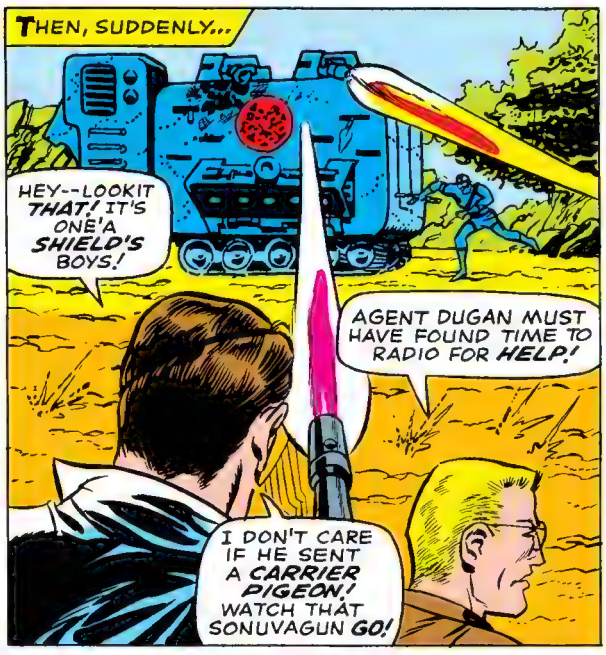
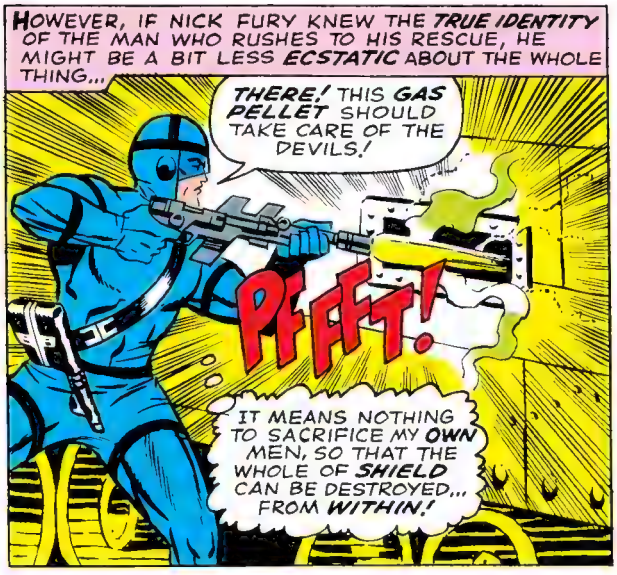
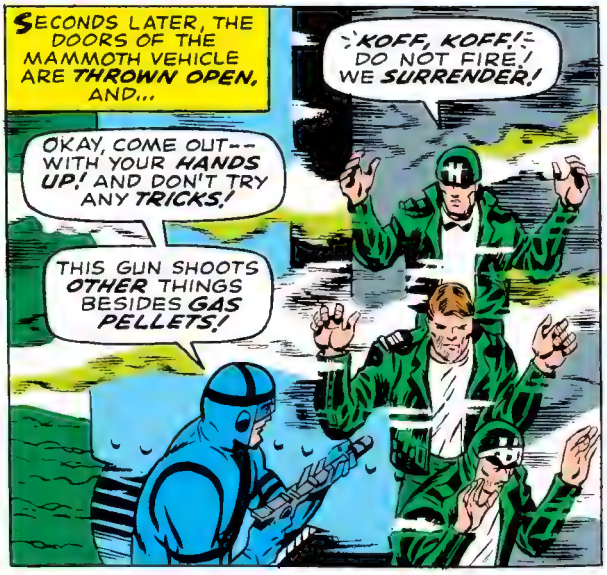
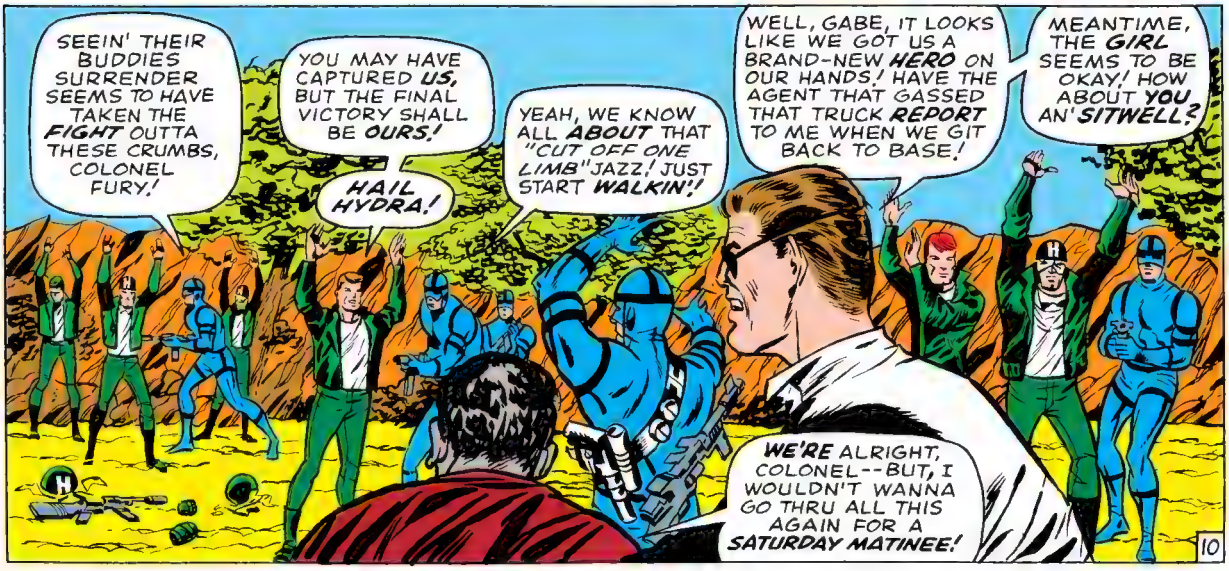
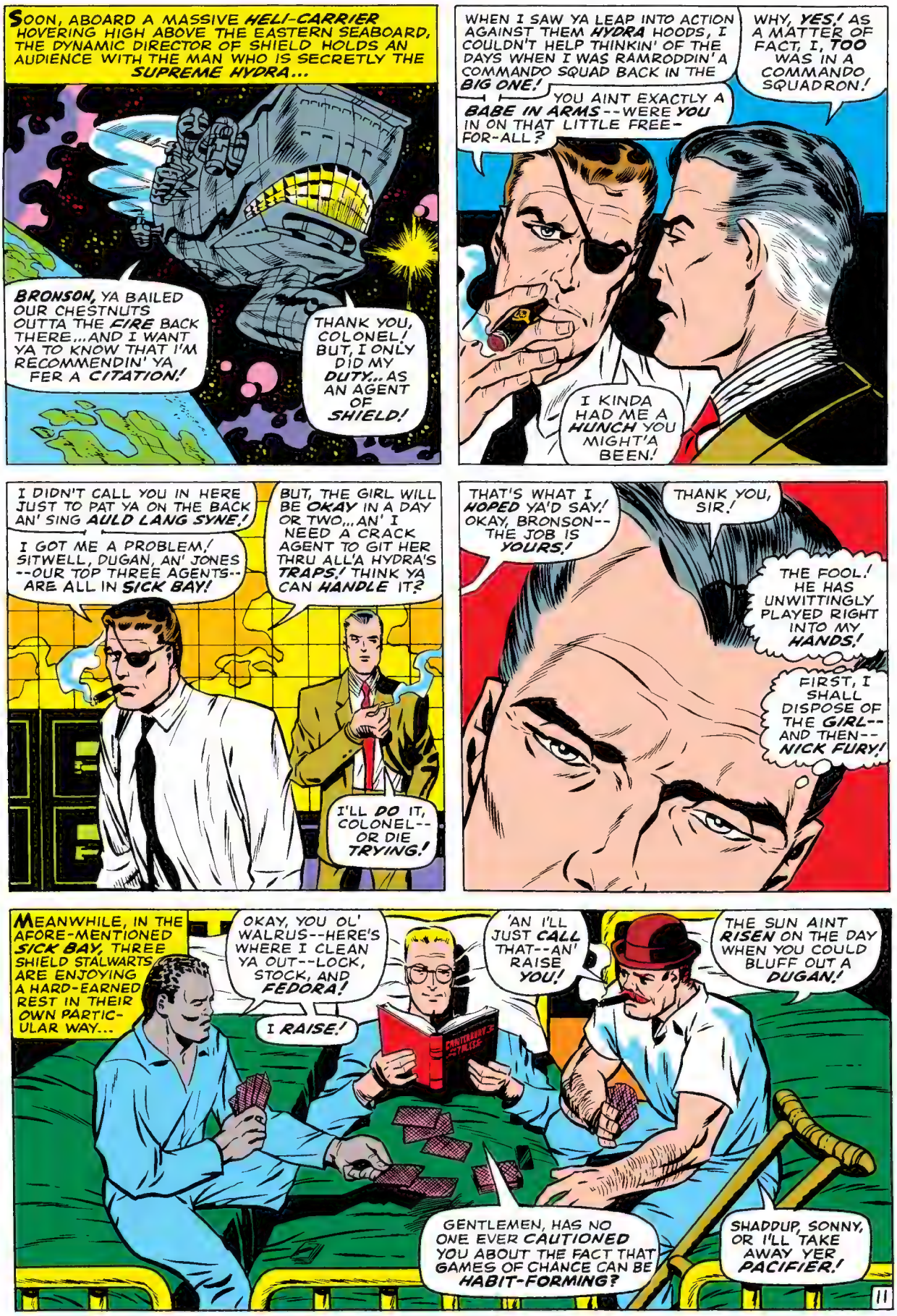

BUT, AS WE REJOIN THE CREW OF THE SAUCER-SHIP, IT LOOKS AS IF THE INCOGNITO HEAD OF HYDRA MIGHT SOON BE ROBBED OF HIS REVENGE, AS...
I DON'T UNDERSTAND, COLONEL! WE'RE SURROUNDED BY HYDRA ASSASSINS...YET, THEIR BULLETS KEEP MISSING US!
YA DON'T MISS A THING, DO YA, SITWELL? I'M USIN' A NEW PORTABLE ELECTRO-IMAGE DISTORTER...IT MAKES PEOPLE SHOOT WHERE YA AIN'T!
ONLY CATCH IS, WE CAN'T MOVE OUTTA THIS LITTLE CIRCLE--AN', IT WON'T LAST MUCH LONGER!
COME TO THINK OF IT, NEITHER WILL WE!
AT LEAST, I'M GLAD THE GIRL'S OUT COLD! SHE'LL NEVER KNOW WHAT HIT 'ER!


THEN, SUDDENLY...
HEY--LOOKIT THAT! IT'S ONE'A SHIELD'S BOYS!
AGENT DUGAN MUST HAVE FOUND TIME TO RADIO FOR HELP!
I DON'T CARE IF HE SENT A CARRIER PIGEON! WATCH THAT SONUVAGUN GO!


HOWEVER, IF NICK FURY KNEW THE TRUE IDENTITY OF THE MAN WHO RUSHES TO HIS RESCUE, HE MIGHT BE A BIT LESS ECSTATIC ABOUT THE WHOLE THING...
THERE! THIS GAS PELLET SHOULD TAKE CARE OF THE DEVILS!
PFFFT!
IT MEANS NOTHING TO SACRIFICE MY OWN MEN, SO THAT THE WHOLE OF SHIELD CAN BE DESTROYED... FROM WITHIN!

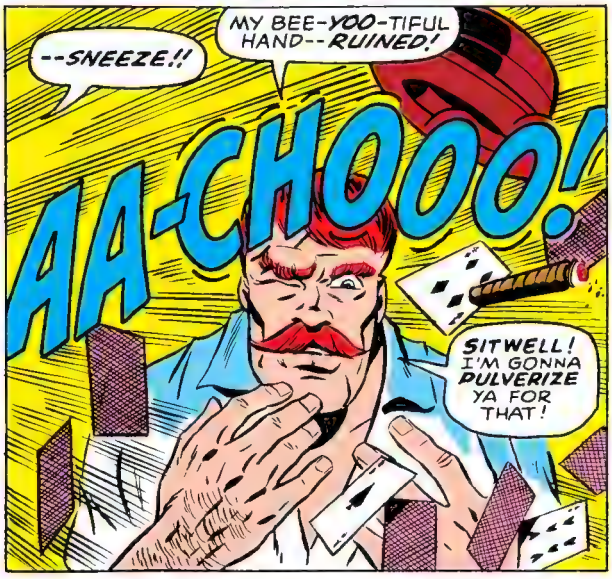

SECONDS LATER, THE DOORS OF THE MAMMOTH VEHICLE ARE THROWN OPEN, AND...
KOFF, KOFF! DO NOT FIRE! WE SURRENDER!
OKAY, COME OUT--WITH YOUR HANDS UP! AND DON'T TRY ANY TRICKS!
THIS GUN SHOOTS OTHER THINGS BESIDES GAS PELLETS!

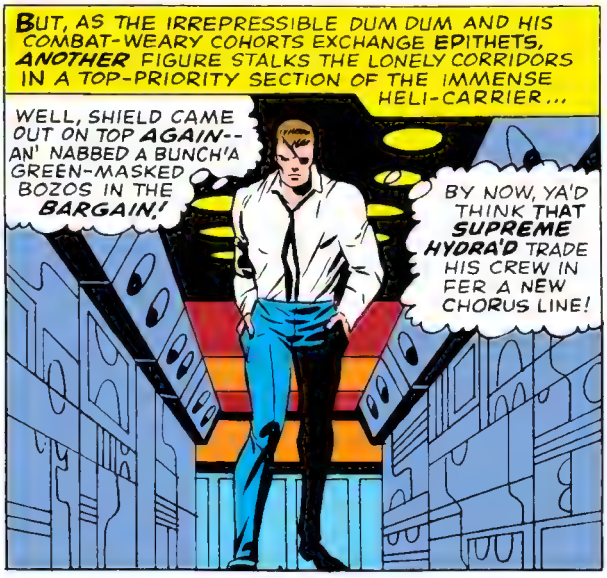

SEEIN' THEIR BUDDIES SURRENDER SEEMS TO HAVE TAKEN THE FIGHT OUTTA THESE CRUMBS, COLONEL FURY!
YOU MAY HAVE CAPTURED US, BUT THE FINAL VICTORY SHALL BE OURS!
HAIL HYDRA!
YEAH, WE KNOW ALL ABOUT THAT "CUT OFF ONE LIMB" JAZZ! JUST START WALKIN'!
WELL, GABE, IT LOOKS LIKE WE GOT US A BRAND-NEW HERO ON OUR HANDS! HAVE THE AGENT THAT GASSED THAT TRUCK REPORT TO ME WHEN WE GIT BACK TO BASE!
MEANTIME, THE GIRL SEEMS TO BE OKAY! HOW ABOUT YOU AN' SITWELL?
WE'RE ALRIGHT, COLONEL--BUT, I WOULDN'T WANNA GO THRU ALL THIS AGAIN FOR A SATURDAY MATINEE!


SOON, ABOARD A MASSIVE HELI-CARRIER HOVERING HIGH ABOVE THE EASTERN SEABOARD, THE DYNAMIC DIRECTOR OF SHIELD HOLDS AN AUDIENCE WITH THE MAN WHO IS SECRETLY THE SUPREME HYDRA...
BRONSON, YA BAILED OUR CHESTNUTS OUTTA THE FIRE BACK THERE...AND I WANT YA TO KNOW THAT I'M RECOMMENDIN' YA FER A CITATION!
THANK YOU, COLONEL! BUT, I ONLY DID MY DUTY... AS AN AGENT OF SHIELD!
WHEN I SAW YA LEAP INTO ACTION AGAINST THEM HYDRA HOODS, I COULDN'T HELP THINKIN' OF THE DAYS WHEN I WAS RAMRODDIN' A COMMANDO SQUAD BACK IN THE BIG ONE!
YOU AINT EXACTLY A BABE IN ARMS--WERE YOU IN ON THAT LITTLE FREE-FOR-ALL?
WHY, YES! AS A MATTER OF FACT, I, TOO WAS IN A COMMANDO SQUADRON!
I KINDA HAD ME A HUNCH YOU MIGHT'A BEEN!
I DIDN'T CALL YOU IN HERE JUST TO PAT YA ON THE BACK AN' SING AULD LANG SYNE!
I GOT ME A PROBLEM! SITWELL, DUGAN, AN' JONES --OUR TOP THREE AGENTS-- ARE ALL IN SICK BAY!
BUT, THE GIRL WILL BE OKAY IN A DAY OR TWO... AN' I NEED A CRACK AGENT TO GIT HER THRU ALL'A HYDRA'S TRAPS! THINK YA CAN HANDLE IT?
I'LL DO IT, COLONEL-- OR DIE TRYING!
THAT'S WHAT I HOPED YA'D SAY! OKAY, BRONSON-- THE JOB IS YOURS!
THANK YOU, SIR!
THE FOOL! HE HAS UNWITTINGLY PLAYED RIGHT INTO MY HANDS!
FIRST, I SHALL DISPOSE OF THE GIRL-- AND THEN-- NICK FURY!
MEANWHILE, IN THE AFORE-MENTIONED SICK BAY, THREE SHIELD STALWARTS ARE ENJOYING A HARD-EARNED REST IN THEIR OWN PARTIC-ULAR WAY...
OKAY, YOU OL' WALRUS--HERE'S WHERE I CLEAN YA OUT--LOCK, STOCK, AND FEDORA!
I RAISE!
'AN I'LL JUST CALL THAT--AN' RAISE YOU!
THE SUN AINT RISEN ON THE DAY WHEN YOU COULD BLUFF OUT A DUGAN!
GENTLEMEN, HAS NO ONE EVER CAUTIONED YOU ABOUT THE FACT THAT GAMES OF CHANCE CAN BE HABIT-FORMING?
SHADDUP, SONNY, OR I'LL TAKE AWAY YER PACIFIER!
11

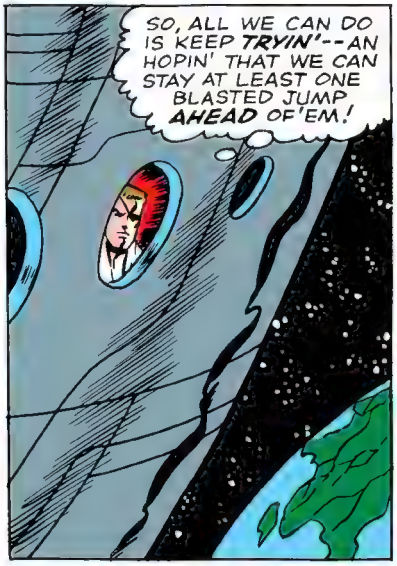
ALRIGHT, YOU MISANTHROPIC MEATHEAD--I'M RAISIN' ONE LAST TIME! LIKE THE MAN SAID--PUT UP OR SHUT UP!
A MAN'S GOT NO FRIENDS WHEN HE'S PLAYIN' POKER, JUNIOR!
GENTLEMEN! GENTLEMEN! ISN'T THAT SUPPOSED TO BE A FRIENDLY GAME?
I'M CALLIN' YA, JONES! WADDAYA GOT?

HERE, BIG MAN--LET'S SEE YOU BEAT FOUR KINGS!
I'VE GOT 'IM! OVER THE YEARS, I'VE LOST ENUFF GREENBACKS TO GABE AN' REB RALSTON TO FLOAT A BATTLESHIP!
BUT, THIS LITTLE HAND MAKES IT ALL WORTH WHILE! ALL I GOTTA DO IS LAY MY 4 ACES ON THE TABLE, AN'--
E-EXCUSE ME, ALL--BUT I THINK I'M GOING TO...


--SNEEZE!!
MY BEE-YOO-TIFUL HAND--RUINED!
AA-CHOOO!
SITWELL! I'M GONNA PULVERIZE YA FOR THAT!


BUT, AS THE IRREPRESSIBLE DUM DUM AND HIS COMBAT-WEARY COHORTS EXCHANGE EPITHETS, ANOTHER FIGURE STALKS THE LONELY CORRIDORS IN A TOP-PRIORITY SECTION OF THE IMMENSE HELI-CARRIER...
WELL, SHIELD CAME OUT ON TOP AGAIN--AN' NABBED A BUNCH'A GREEN-MASKED BOZOS IN THE BARGAIN!
BY NOW, YA'D THINK THAT SUPREME HYDRA'D TRADE HIS CREW IN FER A NEW CHORUS LINE!

NUTS! WHO DO I THINK I'M KIDDIN'?
HE AIN'T NEVER GONNA GIVE UP--NOT AS LONG AS HIM AN' SHIELD ARE WALKIN' THE SAME PLANET!
12


SO, ALL WE CAN DO IS KEEP TRYIN'--AN HOPIN' THAT WE CAN STAY AT LEAST ONE BLASTED JUMP AHEAD OF 'EM!

BUT, ON THE DAY THAT HYDRA COMES UP WITH SOME THREAT THAT SHIELD CAN'T STOP--WHAT HAPPENS THEN?
NEXT:
WHAT THEN?

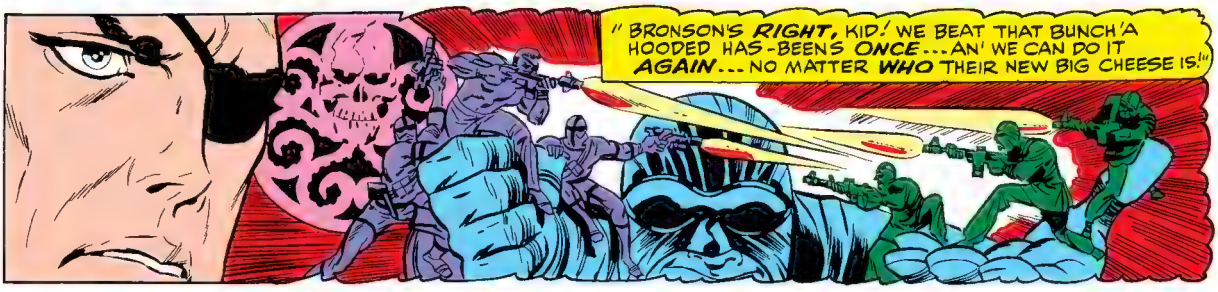
# NICK FURY, AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D.!

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS INTERNATIONAL ESPIONAGE LAW-ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

# "BEWARE...THE DEADLY DREADNOUGHT!"

OUR STULTILOQUENT SAGA SO FAR:
THE MYSTERIOUS SUPREME HYDRA HAS ASSUMED THE IDENTITY OF A SHIELD AGENT NAMED BRONSON---AND MADE HIMSELF A HERO IN THE EYES OF NICK FURY HIMSELF! AND IF THAT DOESN'T CLUE YOU IN THAT SHIELD IS IN FOR TROUBLE, WE'RE GOIN' BACK TO PUBLISHING FUNNY-ANIMAL BOOKS!
AND NOW, LEST WE FORGET: MEET AUTOFAC (ANALYTICAL UNIT FOR TABULATION OF ORIGIN FACTORS AND COMPUTATION)---THE LATEST AND, HOPEFULLY, GREATEST WEAPON IN SHIELD'S ARSENAL AGAINST THE HYDRA HORDES WHICH SEEK TO DOMINATE THE WORLD! WHAT'S IT DO? READ ON, MARVELITE ---
YA MEAN THIS NUTTY GIZMO'S GONNA TELL YA WHO SUPREME HYDRA REALLY IS--- AS SOON AS THE SCIENCE BOYS FINISH FEEDIN' IT ALL THE INFO WE GOT ON 'IM?
HOW CAN IT--- WHEN ALL THE PHOTOS WE GOT ARE SHOTS OF HIM DISGUISED AS DON CABALLERO?
LEAVE THE THINKIN' TO AUTOFAC, YA OL' GOAT--- THAT'S WHAT IT'S HERE FOR!
BUT, AREN'T YOU IN DANGER OF ATTACK BY HYDRA... AS LONG AS I'M ON BOARD?
LADY, HYDRA'S GOT A LOT MORE AGAINST SHIELD THAN JUST THE FACT THAT WE'RE PROTECTIN' THE DAUGHTER OF ITS FIRST LEADER!
ALL THE SAME, COLONEL, I SUGGEST WE RE-LOCATE MISS BROWN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!
AS YOU KNOW, THERE'S ALREADY BEEN ONE ATTEMPT ON HER LIFE!
A MAJESTIC MARVEL MASTERWORK!
EDITED BY: STAN LEE
SCRIPTED BY: ROY THOMAS
PLOTTED and DRAWN BY: JIM STERANKO
LETTERED BY: SAM ROSEN
DON'T YIELD! BACK WHAT'S-ITS-NAME!

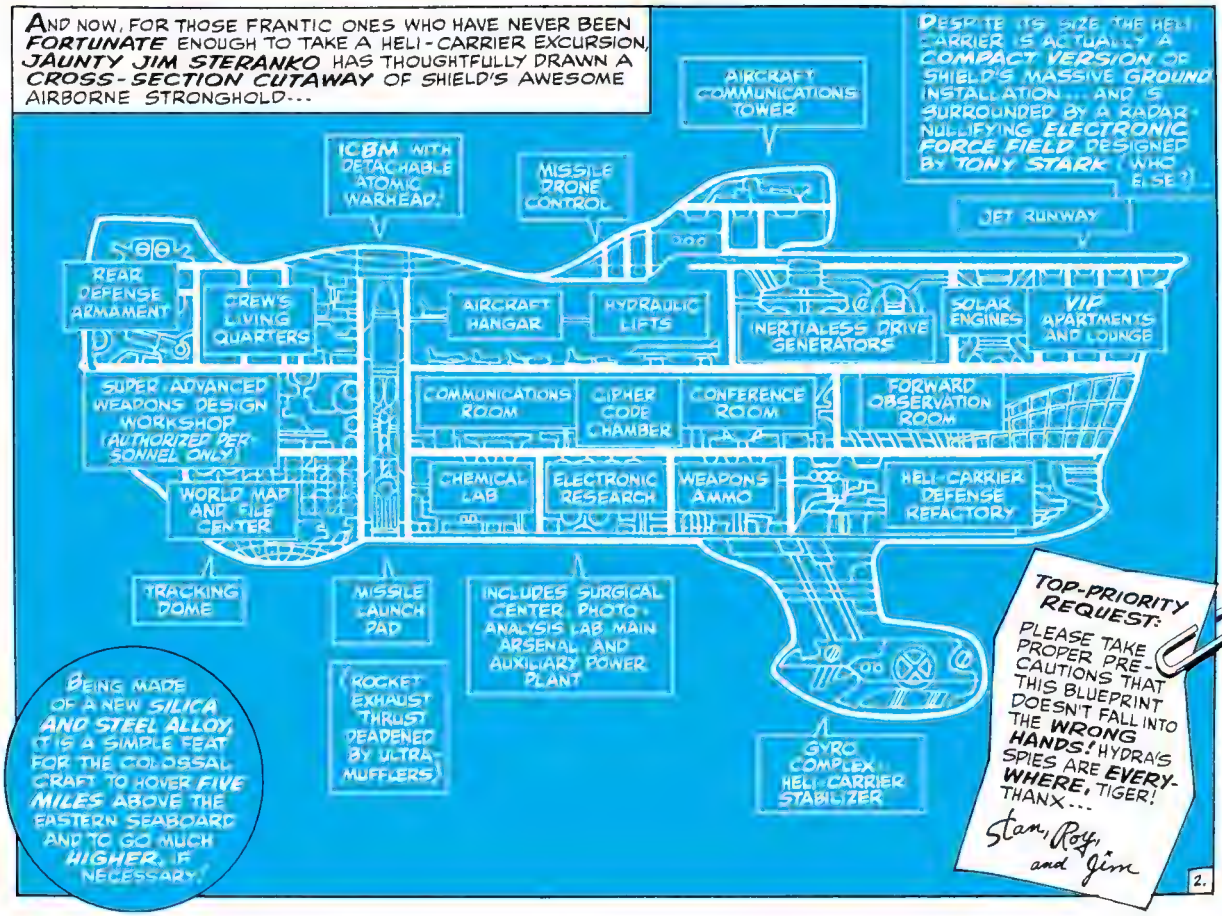
DON'T WORRY, SITWELL! I AIN'T LIKELY TO FERGIT THAT LITTLE FACT!
BRONSON, TOMORROW YOU'RE TAKIN' LAURA--- MISS BROWN--- TO OUR WESTERN HQ, WHERE SHE'LL BE SAFE FER A WHILE!
WHATEVER YOU SAY, COLONEL! BUT, WON'T MY TRANSFER JUST INVITE ANOTHER HYDRA ASSAULT?
THAT'S NOT LIKELY, MISS BROWN! COLONEL FURY HAS ORDERED ME TO USE THE SAUCER-SHIP THIS TIME!
THEN, WE'LL BE ABLE TO CONCENTRATE ON A MASTER PLAN TO RID THE EARTH OF HYDRA--- FOR ONCE AND FOR ALL!

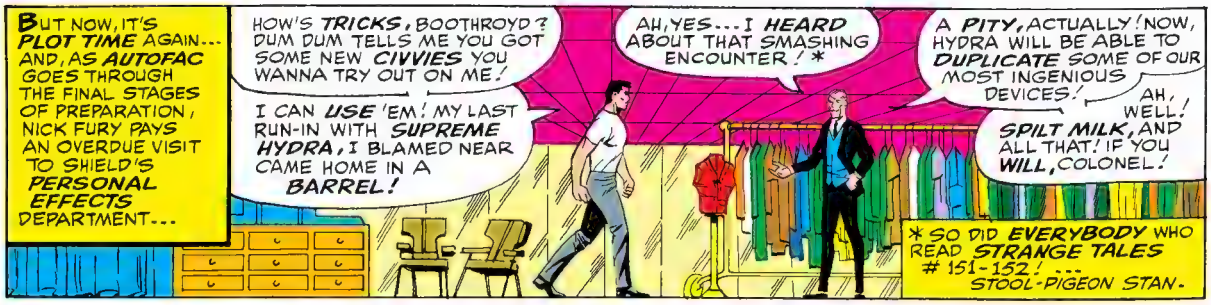


I KNOW YOU CAN, COLONEL--- YOU MUST! FOR, THE FATE OF THE WORLD HANGS IN THE BALANCE!
AS FOR MYSELF, I'LL BE READY WHEN YOU WISH--- SO THAT I CAN BE OF ASSISTANCE TO YOUR WESTERN DIVISION!
AND, I'LL SEE TO IT YOU GET THERE!
YOU DO THAT, MISTER!
YOU OTHER THREE GOLDBRICKS GIT BACK TO THE INFIRMARY--- AND THAT'S AN ORDER!
BUT--- AW-RIGHT, NICK! YER THE BOSS!
I'LL CALCULATE MISS BROWN'S WESTERN ROUTE PERSONALLY, SIR!
I'LL SHARPEN YOUR PENCILS, JASP!

AND NOW, FOR THOSE FRANTIC ONES WHO HAVE NEVER BEEN FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO TAKE A HELI-CARRIER EXCURSION, JAUNTY JIM STERANKO HAS THOUGHTFULLY DRAWN A CROSS-SECTION CUTAWAY OF SHIELD'S AWESOME AIRBORNE STRONGHOLD---

DESPITE ITS SIZE THE HELI-CARRIER IS ACTUALLY A COMPACT VERSION OF SHIELD'S MASSIVE GROUND INSTALLATION--- AND IS SURROUNDED BY A RADAR-NULLIFYING ELECTRONIC FORCE FIELD DESIGNED BY TONY STARK (WHO ELSE?)


AIRCRAFT COMMUNICATIONS TOWER
ICBM WITH DETACHABLE ATOMIC WARHEAD
MISSILE DRONE CONTROL
JET RUNWAY
REAR DEFENSE ARMAMENT
CREW'S LIVING QUARTERS
AIRCRAFT HANGAR
HYDRAULIC LIFTS
INERTIALESS DRIVE GENERATORS
SOLAR ENGINES
VIP APARTMENTS AND LOUNGE
SUPER-ADVANCED WEAPONS DESIGN WORKSHOP (AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ONLY)
COMMUNICATIONS ROOM
CIPHER CODE CHAMBER
CONFERENCE ROOM
FORWARD OBSERVATION ROOM
WORLD MAP AND FILE CENTER
CHEMICAL LAB
ELECTRONIC RESEARCH
WEAPONS AMMO
HELI-CARRIER DEFENSE REFACTORY
TRACKING DOME
MISSILE LAUNCH PAD
INCLUDES SURGICAL CENTER, PHOTO-ANALYSIS LAB, MAIN ARSENAL AND AUXILIARY POWER PLANT
ROCKET EXHAUST THRUST DEADENED BY ULTRA-MUFFLERS
GYRO COMPLEX--- HELI-CARRIER STABILIZER
BEING MADE OF A NEW SILICA AND STEEL ALLOY, IT IS A SIMPLE FEAT FOR THE COLOSSAL CRAFT TO HOVER FIVE MILES ABOVE THE EASTERN SEABOARD AND TO GO MUCH HIGHER, IF NECESSARY!
TOP-PRIORITY REQUEST: PLEASE TAKE PROPER PRE-CAUTIONS THAT THIS BLUEPRINT DOESN'T FALL INTO THE WRONG HANDS! HYDRA'S SPIES ARE EVERY-WHERE, TIGER! THANX---
Stan, Roy, and Jim


BUT NOW, IT'S PLOT TIME AGAIN... AND, AS AUTOFAC GOES THROUGH THE FINAL STAGES OF PREPARATION, NICK FURY PAYS AN OVERDUE VISIT TO SHIELD'S PERSONAL EFFECTS DEPARTMENT...
HOW'S TRICKS, BOOTHROYD? DUM DUM TELLS ME YOU GOT SOME NEW CIVVIES YOU WANNA TRY OUT ON ME!
I CAN USE 'EM! MY LAST RUN-IN WITH SUPREME HYDRA, I BLAMED NEAR CAME HOME IN A BARREL!
AH, YES... I HEARD ABOUT THAT SMASHING ENCOUNTER! *
A PITY, ACTUALLY! NOW, HYDRA WILL BE ABLE TO DUPLICATE SOME OF OUR MOST INGENIOUS DEVICES!
AH, WELL! SPILT MILK, AND ALL THAT! IF YOU WILL, COLONEL!
* SO DID EVERYBODY WHO READ STRANGE TALES # 151-152! --- STOOL-PIGEON STAN.

THEN, AS THE SHIELD RAM-ROD DONS A WAITING SUIT---
EXQUISITE FIT, IF I MAY SAY SO, SIR! AND, THE MATERIAL IS MORE PERFECTLY BULLETPROOF AND FLAMEPROOF THAN EVER!
THE SHIRT'S BUTTONS, BY THE WAY, CONTAIN A NEW SYNTHETIC COMPOUND... AND, WHEN SWALLOWED, WILL SUPPLY FIVE MINUTES OF OXYGEN!
AND NOW, COLONEL, THIS PEN...
SORRY, BOOTHROYD, I AIN'T IN THE MOOD TO SIGN AUTOGRAPHS!

AH, I SEE YOUR SENSE OF HUMOR IS STILL INTACT, SIR! THAT'S AN EAVESDROPPER PEN... IT MAGNIFIES SOUND WAVES A HUNDREDFOLD WHEN USED PROPERLY!
AS FOR THE CUFF LINK YOU'RE ADJUSTING, IT'S ONE OF A PAIR OF ELECTRONIC ABSORBERS!
YA DON'T SAY!

THE RIGHT CUFF LINK IS AN IONIC DE-GENERATOR! WHEN COUPLED WITH THE OTHER... A MINIATURE ATOMIC BATTERY... IT DISPELS LARGE AMOUNTS OF HIGH VOLTAGE!
AND, EACH OF THOSE CIGARS CONTAINS CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES USEFUL IN ANY NUMBER OF DIRE EMERGENCIES!
OH WELL, I CAN ALWAYS TAKE UP SMOKIN' A PIPE!

THIS REPULSOR WATCH IS OUR PRIDE AND JOY! JUST PRESS THE STEM, AND IT EMITS A STREAM OF NEGATIVE MAGNETIC ENERGY--USEFUL FOR DODGING BULLETS AND THE LIKE!
JUST ONE THING, COLONEL! IF YOU NEED TO KNOW THE TIME---
YEAH, I KNOW! I'LL ASK MICKEY MOUSE!

THIS RING I THINK I CAN FIGURE OUT FER MYSELF! I GOT ME A HUNCH IT'S THE DEADLIEST GIZMO OF ALL!
QUITE SO, SIR, AS YOU GUESSED!
IT DOES INDEED CONTAIN AN AUTO-DESTRUCT MECHANISM--- JUST IN CASE!
YEAH--- JUST IN CASE!
WITH MY LUCK, IT'LL PROBABLY ALSO TURN MY BLASTED FINGER GREEN!

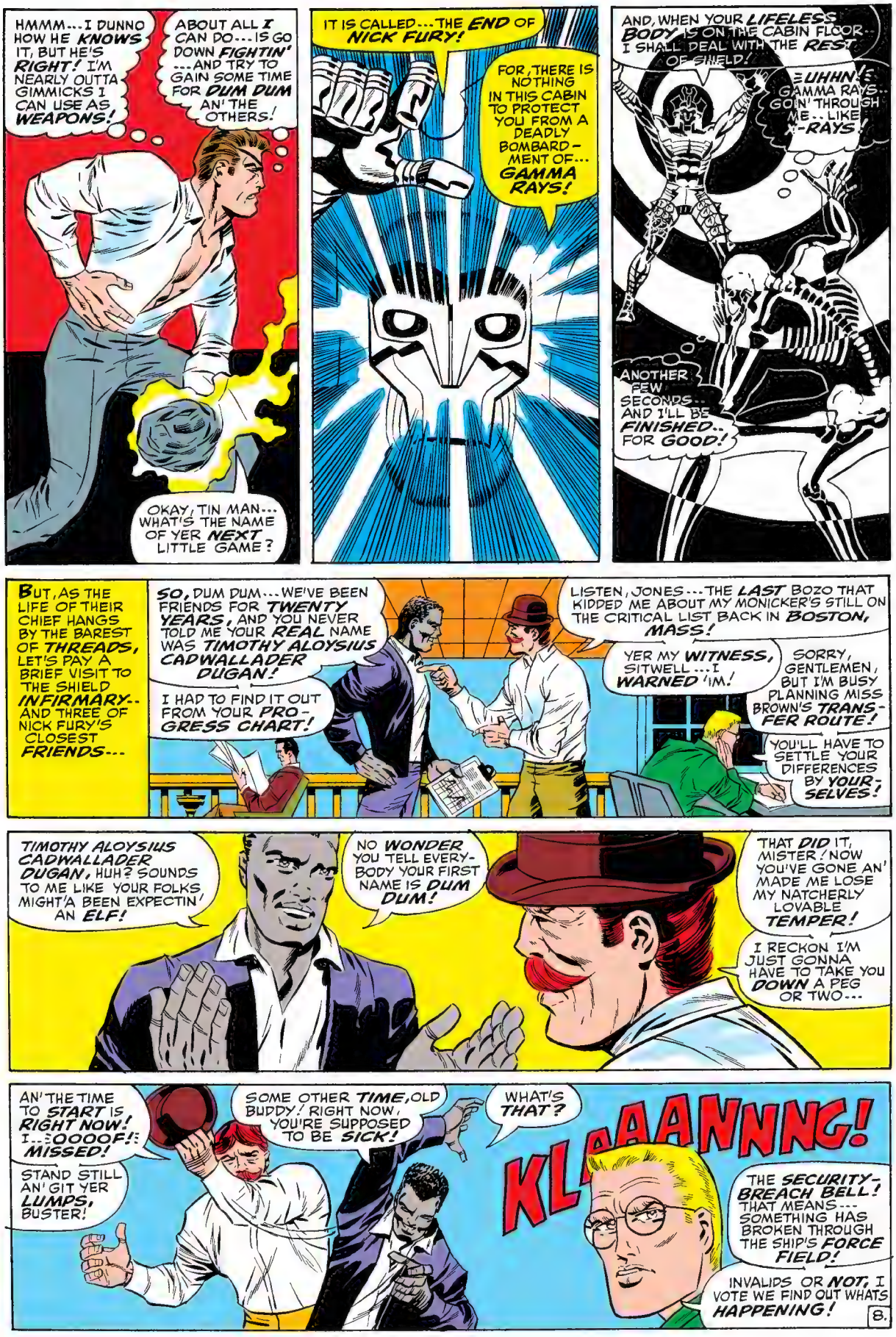
THIS BELT LOOKS LIKE THE LAST OF YER LITTLE SURPRISES!
WHAT KIND'A CRAZY STUNT DOES IT DO?
A MOST BASIC ONE, SIR! IT HOLDS UP YOUR PANTS!
SORRY ABOUT THAT, BOOTHROYD!
ONE FINAL WORD, COLONEL--- WE'D APPRECIATE IT IF YOU COULD, ER, TAKE SLIGHTLY BETTER CARE OF THIS SUIT THAN YOUR PREVIOUS ONE!
NEXT TIME I SEE SUPREME HYDRA, MEBBE I CAN GIT 'EM TO PRESS THE OLD ONE AN' MAIL IT BACK TO YA!

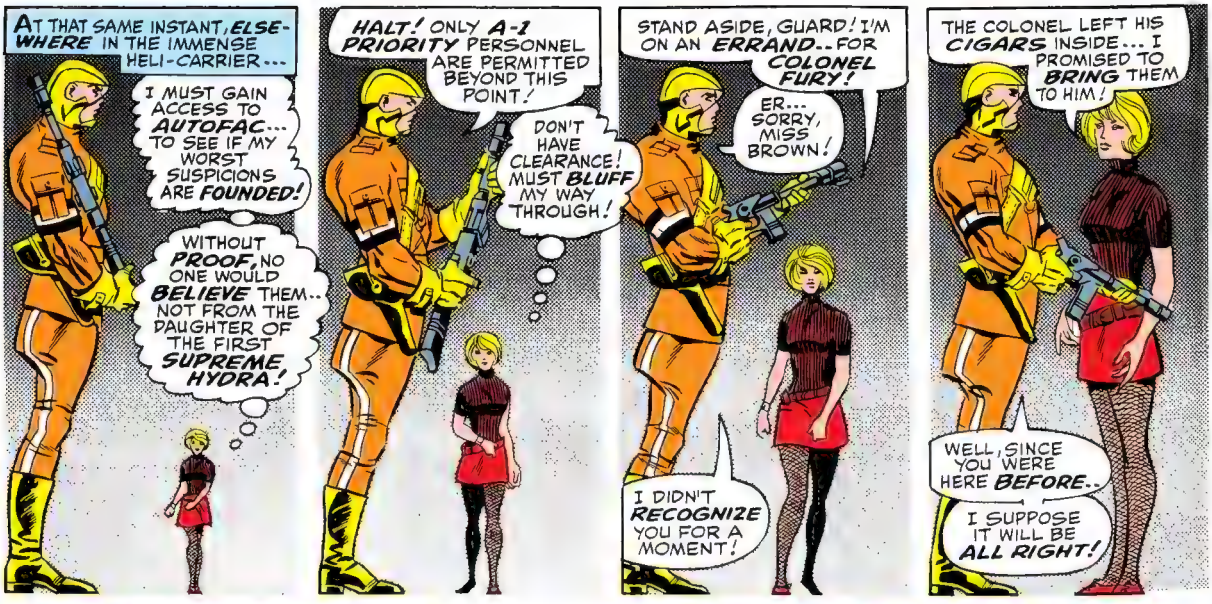
BUT, THE POWER-MAD PUNDIT OF WHOM NICK FURY SPEAKS IS MUCH, MUCH NEARER THAN THE DIRECTOR OF SHIELD SUSPECTS! FOR, AT THIS PRECISE INSTANT...ELSEWHERE IN THE IMMENSE HELI-CARRIER, A SINISTER CALL GOES OUT...AND, FROM A HIDDEN SUBTERRANEAN COMPLEX ON EARTH COMES THE OMINOUS ANSWER---
CALLING HYDRA HQ EASTAMERICA! STAND BY TO RECEIVE ORDERS! THIS IS SUPREME HYDRA!
WE STAND ON THE BRINK OF OUR DESTINY! THE SPOILS OF VICTORY SHALL SOON BE OURS!
AND NOW--EXECUTE PLAN D!
THE TIME HAS COME FOR--- THE DREADNOUGHT!
HYDRA HQ EAST-AMERICA HERE! YOUR COMMUNI-BEAM HAS ALLOWED US TO PINPOINT THE HELI-CARRIER'S PRECISE LOCATION!
AT THE PULL OF THIS SWITCH, MASTER, THE DREAD-NOUGHT WILL STRIKE.. AND SHIELD'S FATE WILL BE SEALED!
HAIL HYDRA!
AND, A SPLIT SECOND LATER, SEISMOGRAPHS ON THE EASTERN SEABOARD REGISTER A MILD TREMOR---AS A DEADLY ENGINE OF DESTRUCTION ZOOMS TOWARDS THE SHIELD BASE ---
THE MOMENT OF MY ULTIMATE TRIUMPH DRAWS EVER NEARER--- THE MOMENT WHEN THE BELL OF DEATH SHALL TOLL FOR--NICK FURY!
THEN, IN HYDRA HQ, EVEN AS THE HURTLING FORM STREAKS UPWARDS, A BLOOD-CHILLING RITUAL IS RE-ENACTED---
HAIL HYDRA! IMMORTAL HYDRA! WE SHALL NEVER BE DESTROYED!
CUT OFF A LIMB, AND TWO MORE SHALL TAKE ITS PLACE!
WE SERVE NONE BUT THE MASTER.. AS THE WORLD SHALL SOON SERVE US! HAIL HYDRA!
MEANWHILE, THE UNSUSPECTING DIRECTOR OF SHIELD MOMENTARILY HAS OTHER, LESS EARTH-SHAKING MATTERS ON HIS MIND---
HMMM! YER GITTIN' A LITTLE SNOW AROUND THE TEMPLES, FURY, OLD MAN!
WELL, IT FIGGERS! YA BEEN FIGHTIN' ONE KIND'A WAR OR ANOTHER EVER SINCE YOU WUZ A KID IN HELL'S KITCHEN! AN' THAT WUZ A LONG TIME AGO!.
WHICH IS SOME-THIN' TO REMEMBER IF YA EVER START THINKIN' SERIOUS ABOUT LITTLE MISS HYDRA!
MAYBE IT'S TIME SOME YOUNG BLOOD TOOK OVER SOME'A THE ROUGHER JOBS...
HOWEVER, AS FURY BEGINS TO WALK TOWARDS THE CHAMBER WHERE AUTOFAC IS BEING READIED, HE CANNOT KNOW THAT HIS THOUGHTS ARE ABOUT TO BE CUT SHORT...
TWO SECONDS TO IMPACT! ONE SECOND... NOW!!
4.

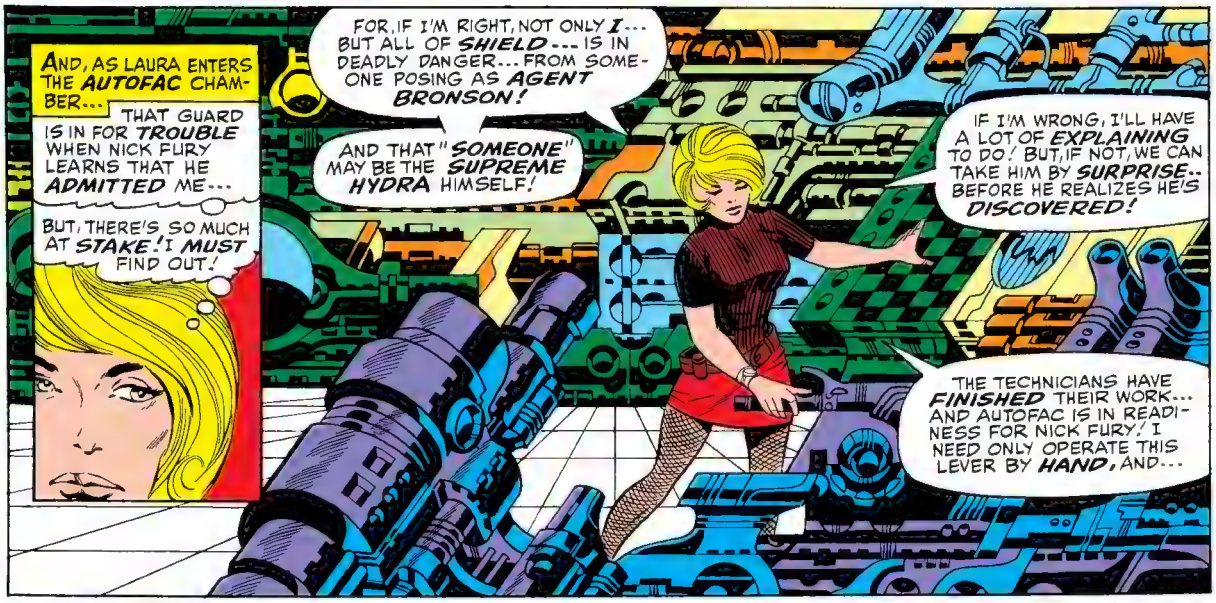
THE NEXT INSTANT, THE HELI-CARRIER ITSELF IS ELECTRIFYINGLY JOLTED.. AS, AMIDST AN EAR-SHATTERING CRASH, A MASSIVE, NIGHTMARISH FORM BURSTS THROUGH THE METALLIC HULL...
I HAVE COME FOR YOU, NICK FURY!
MEN CALL ME THE DREADNOUGHT --- BUT, YOU MAY CALL ME.. DEATH!!
KRRAAAAK!
WHAT IN BLUE BLAZES..? IT'S SOME KINDA ROBOT... AND IT MUST BE EIGHT FEET TALL!
THE BLAMED THING TORE THROUGH THE SIDES OF THE SHIP LIKE THEY WERE MADE OF SO MUCH TISSUE PAPER!
AND... IT SOUNDS LIKE IT PLANS TO DO THE SAME WITH ME!
5.

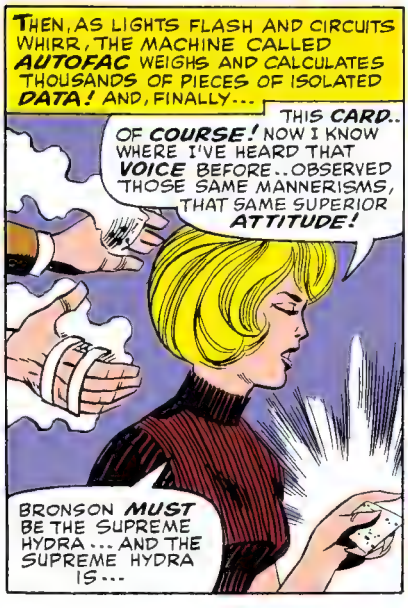
THEN, EVEN AS THE MECHANICAL ROBOT REPAIR RATS RUSH TO RE-CONSTRUCT THE TORN HULL---AND THE DE-PRESSURIZING CABIN IS AUTOMATICALLY SEALED OFF FROM THE REST OF THE SHIP...NICK FURY TAKES ACTION..!
OXYGEN'S..GITTIN' THIN! BUT, A COUPLE'A THESE BUTTONS OUGHTTA KEEP ME GOIN' FER A WHILE---
...AT LEAST, TILL I FIND OUT WHAT IN SAM HILL'S GOIN' ON AROUND HERE!
I SHALL ALLOW YOU TO CONSUME THE TABLETS, MORTAL...FOR, IT IS HYDRA'S WISH THAT YOU DIE BY MY HAND!
AND, NO ONE...OR NO THING.. SHALL PREVENT YOUR COMPLETE AND UTTER DESTRUCTION!
IN THAT CASE..I GOT NUTHIN' TO LOSE BY RUSHIN' YA, DO I?
FAT CHOICE I GOT! WITH THIS CABIN SHUT OFF, I SURE AIN'T GONNA GET NO HELP IN TIME!
THAT BABY LOOKS LIKE HE'S MADE OF SOME KIND'A SHINY METAL--- BUT, I GOTTA TACKLE 'IM ANYWAY!
BAH! IS THAT THE EXTENT OF YOUR FEEBLE STRENGTH?
THWAK!
IT...WAS LIKE HITTIN' A CRUMMY BRICK WALL! HE MUST WEIGH A BLASTED TON!
AND NOW, NICK FURY, I SENTENCE YOU TO... DEATH!
DEATH... BY MEANS OF A STREAM OF LIQUID FIRE, AT 3500° CENTI-GRADE!
WOOOSH!
PFFIT!
NEVER MIND THE FANCY FIGURES, CREEP! YA MISSED ME, ALREADY!
LEAVE IT TO A HAMBONE LIKE SUPREME HYDRA TO COME UP WITH A ROBOT WHO'S A ONE-MAN WALKIE-TALKIE!
THAT CIGAR I JUST THREW WAS LABELED CARBON DIOXIDE! THAT OUGHTTA SMOTHER THEM FLAMES!
WELL, WADDAYA KNOW! IT WORKED!
6.

YOU HAVE ESCAPED ONE FATE---ONLY TO MEET ANOTHER!
FOR, NOTHING CAN STOP--- THE DARTS OF DOOM!
ZIK
ZIK
ZIK
LUCKY I SAW 'IM RAISE HIS ARMS, AN' GUESSED WHAT HE WUZ UP TO!
OTHERWISE, I WOULD'A NEVER HAD TIME TO SWITCH ON THIS WATCH---
KLIK!
--AN' SEE IF IT REALLY WORKS AS A MAGNETIC REPULSOR!
WHEW! JUST IN TIME, TOO!
ANOTHER SECOND, AN' IT WOULD'A BEEN NICK FURY, THE WALKIN' PIN-CUSHION!
UH OH--- NOW WHAT'S IT TRYIN' TO DO?
SPARKS---SHOOTIN' OUTTA ITS HEAD--! IT MUST BE PLANNIN' TO ELECTROCUTE ME!
BUT, FROM THE LOOKS OF THINGS, IT'S TAKIN' A FEW SECONDS TO BUILD UP A CHARGE!
ONLY ONE CHANCE! I GOTTA YANK OUT THESE GIMMICKED-UP CUFF LINKS---
THE RIGHT ONE GOES INTO THE LEFT ONE--I THINK!
IF I GET 'EM BACKWARDS, I'M LIABLE TO SAVE THE ROBOT A LOTTA TROUBLE!
WELL, THEY'RE HOOKED UP... BUT, THEY AIN'T GONNA DO ME NO GOOD JUST STANDIN' HERE!
LOOKS LIKE IT'S NOW--- OR NEVER!
THEN, MOVING WITH A SPEED BORN OF YEARS OF COMMANDO TRAINING, NICK FURY LEAPS AT HIS METALLIC FOE, AND---
EEYOWW! EVEN THROUGH MY SILICA-AND-STEEL JACKET, I'M GITTIN' ENOUGH VOLTAGE TO KNOCK OVER A HORSE!
IF ONLY--- I CAN HOLD ON--- TILL THE ELECTRONIC ABSORBER DOES ITS JOB!
IT'S GOTTA BE WORKIN'! I DRAINED OFF ENUFF STRENGTH SO'S I COULD EVEN KNOCK THE ROBOT OFF ITS FEET!
ZIPP!
ENJOY YOUR BRIEF TRIUMPH WHILE YOU MAY, HUMAN!
FOR, WITHIN MOMENTS, I SHALL RISE--- AND YOU HAVE EXHAUSTED VIRTUALLY ALL YOUR DEFENSES!


HMMM... I DUNNO HOW HE KNOWS IT, BUT HE'S RIGHT! I'M NEARLY OUTTA GIMMICKS I CAN USE AS WEAPONS!
ABOUT ALL I CAN DO... IS GO DOWN FIGHTIN' ...AND TRY TO GAIN SOME TIME FOR DUM DUM AN' THE OTHERS!
OKAY, TIN MAN... WHAT'S THE NAME OF YER NEXT LITTLE GAME?
IT IS CALLED... THE END OF NICK FURY!
FOR, THERE IS NOTHING IN THIS CABIN TO PROTECT YOU FROM A DEADLY BOMBARD-MENT OF... GAMMA RAYS!
AND, WHEN YOUR LIFELESS BODY IS ON THE CABIN FLOOR... I SHALL DEAL WITH THE REST OF SHIELD!
UHHN! GAMMA RAYS... GOIN' THROUGH ME... LIKE X-RAYS!
ANOTHER FEW SECONDS... AND I'LL BE FINISHED... FOR GOOD!
BUT, AS THE LIFE OF THEIR CHIEF HANGS BY THE BAREST OF THREADS, LET'S PAY A BRIEF VISIT TO THE SHIELD INFIRMARY... AND THREE OF NICK FURY'S CLOSEST FRIENDS...
SO, DUM DUM... WE'VE BEEN FRIENDS FOR TWENTY YEARS, AND YOU NEVER TOLD ME YOUR REAL NAME WAS TIMOTHY ALOYSIUS CADWALLADER DUGAN!
I HAD TO FIND IT OUT FROM YOUR PRO-GRESS CHART!
LISTEN, JONES... THE LAST BOZO THAT KIDDED ME ABOUT MY MONICKER'S STILL ON THE CRITICAL LIST BACK IN BOSTON, MASS!
YER MY WITNESS, SITWELL... I WARNED 'IM!
SORRY, GENTLEMEN, BUT I'M BUSY PLANNING MISS BROWN'S TRANS-FER ROUTE!
YOU'LL HAVE TO SETTLE YOUR DIFFERENCES BY YOUR-SELVES!
TIMOTHY ALOYSIUS CADWALLADER DUGAN, HUH? SOUNDS TO ME LIKE YOUR FOLKS MIGHT'A BEEN EXPECTIN' AN ELF!
NO WONDER YOU TELL EVERY-BODY YOUR FIRST NAME IS DUM DUM!
THAT DID IT, MISTER! NOW YOU'VE GONE AN' MADE ME LOSE MY NATCHERLY LOVABLE TEMPER!
I RECKON I'M JUST GONNA HAVE TO TAKE YOU DOWN A PEG OR TWO...
AN' THE TIME TO START IS RIGHT NOW! I--OOOOF! MISSED!
STAND STILL AN' GIT YER LUMPS, BUSTER!
SOME OTHER TIME, OLD BUDDY! RIGHT NOW, YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE SICK!
WHAT'S THAT?
KLAAANNNG!
THE SECURITY-BREACH BELL! THAT MEANS--- SOMETHING HAS BROKEN THROUGH THE SHIP'S FORCE FIELD!
INVALIDS OR NOT, I VOTE WE FIND OUT WHATS HAPPENING!
8.

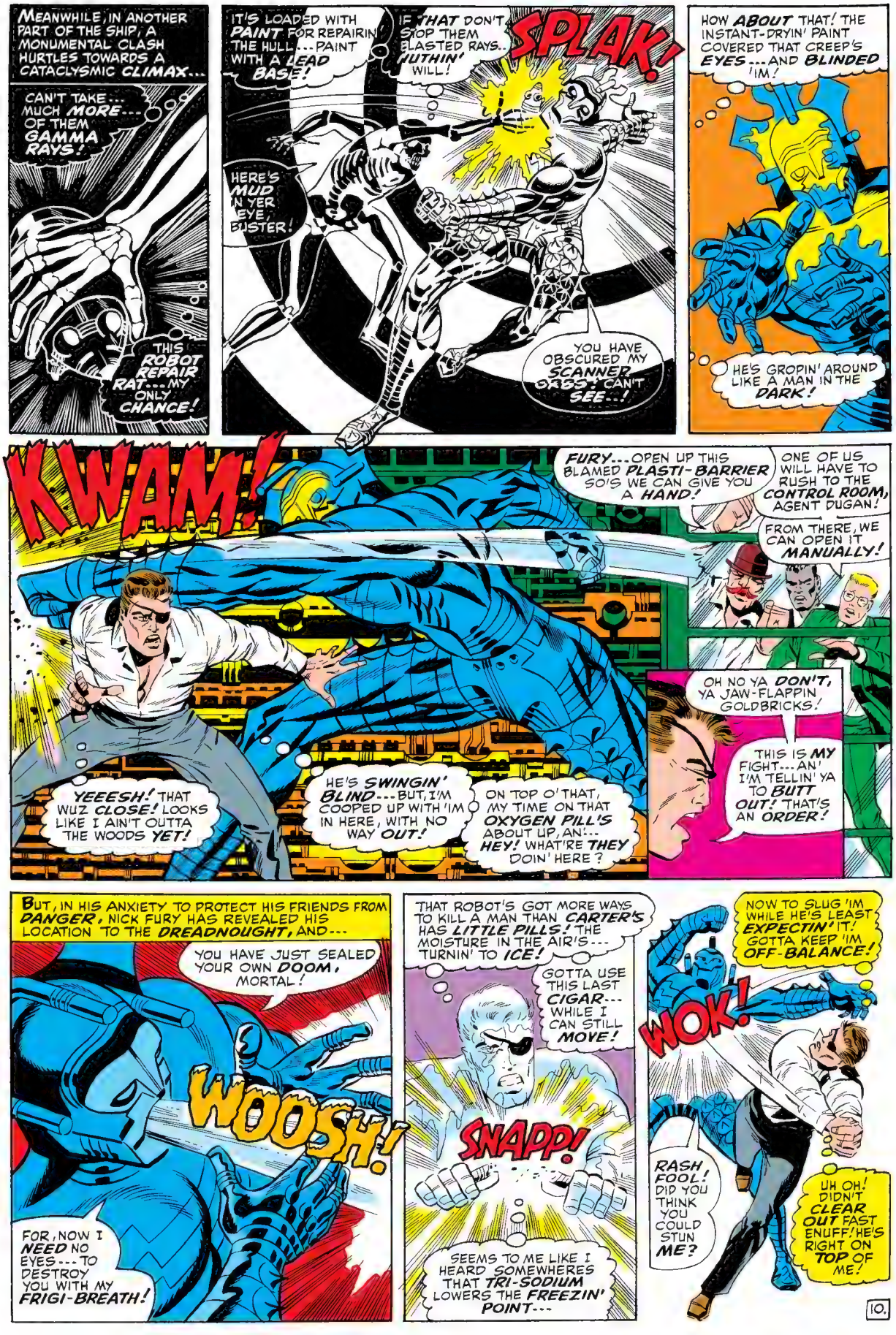

AT THAT SAME INSTANT, ELSEWHERE IN THE IMMENSE HELI-CARRIER...
I MUST GAIN ACCESS TO AUTOFAC... TO SEE IF MY WORST SUSPICIONS ARE FOUNDED!
WITHOUT PROOF, NO ONE WOULD BELIEVE THEM.. NOT FROM THE DAUGHTER OF THE FIRST SUPREME HYDRA!
HALT! ONLY A-1 PRIORITY PERSONNEL ARE PERMITTED BEYOND THIS POINT!
DON'T HAVE CLEARANCE! MUST BLUFF MY WAY THROUGH!
STAND ASIDE, GUARD! I'M ON AN ERRAND.. FOR COLONEL FURY!
ER... SORRY, MISS BROWN!
I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE YOU FOR A MOMENT!
THE COLONEL LEFT HIS CIGARS INSIDE... I PROMISED TO BRING THEM TO HIM!
WELL, SINCE YOU WERE HERE BEFORE..
I SUPPOSE IT WILL BE ALL RIGHT!

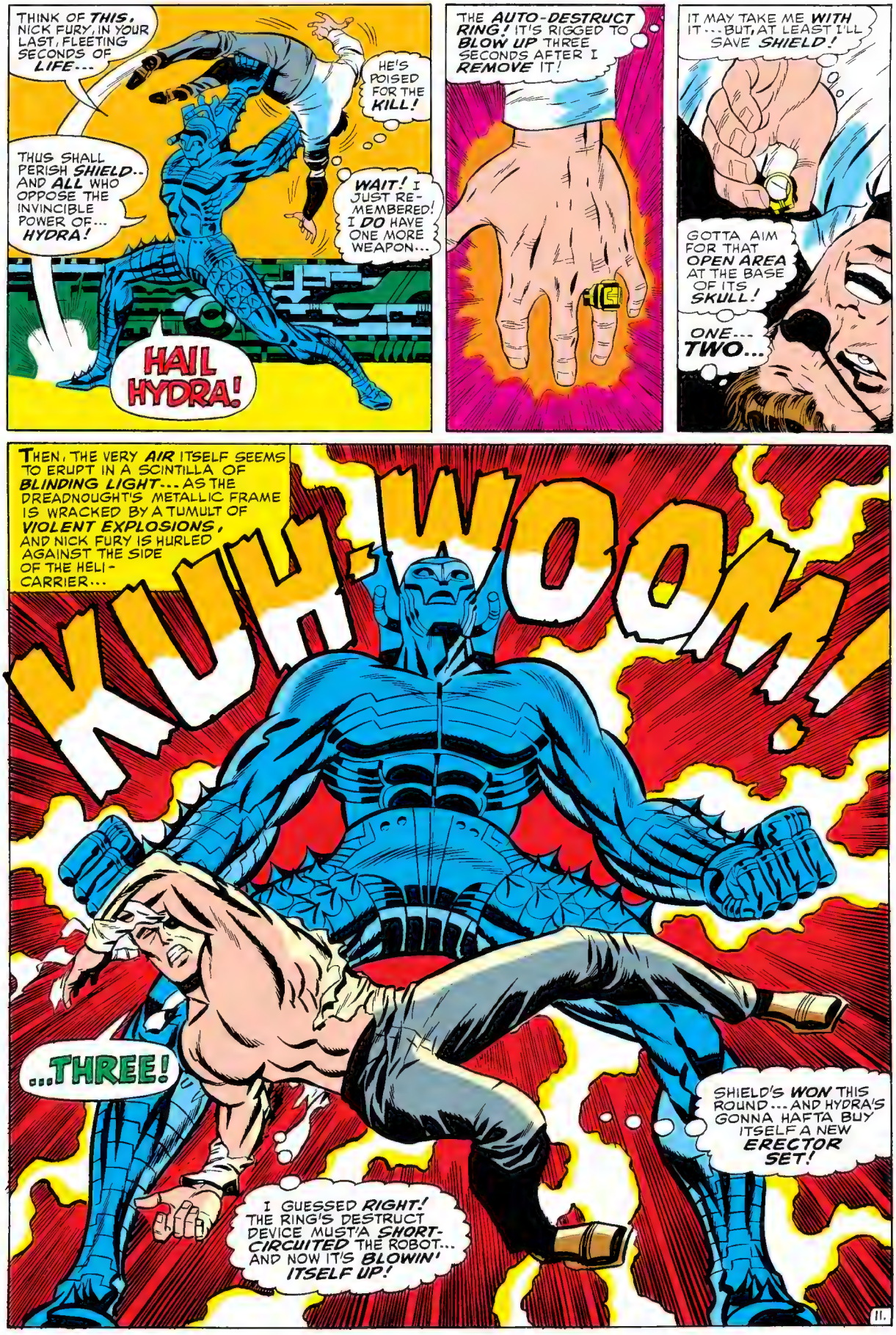

AND, AS LAURA ENTERS THE AUTOFAC CHAMBER...
THAT GUARD IS IN FOR TROUBLE WHEN NICK FURY LEARNS THAT HE ADMITTED ME...
BUT, THERE'S SO MUCH AT STAKE! I MUST FIND OUT!
FOR, IF I'M RIGHT, NOT ONLY I... BUT ALL OF SHIELD... IS IN DEADLY DANGER... FROM SOMEONE POSING AS AGENT BRONSON!
AND THAT "SOMEONE" MAY BE THE SUPREME HYDRA HIMSELF!
IF I'M WRONG, I'LL HAVE A LOT OF EXPLAINING TO DO! BUT, IF NOT, WE CAN TAKE HIM BY SURPRISE.. BEFORE HE REALIZES HE'S DISCOVERED!
THE TECHNICIANS HAVE FINISHED THEIR WORK... AND AUTOFAC IS IN READINESS FOR NICK FURY! I NEED ONLY OPERATE THIS LEVER BY HAND, AND...

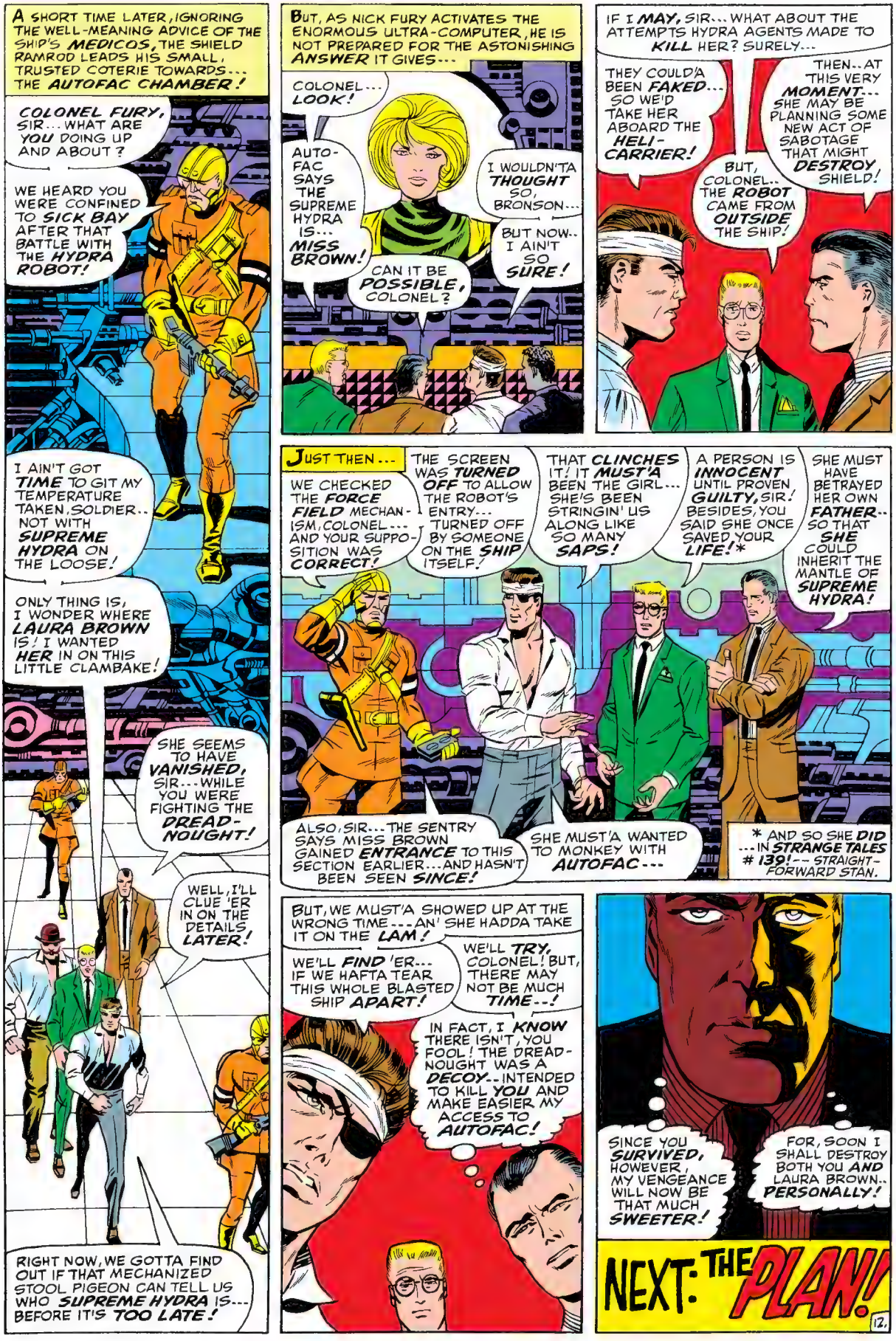

THEN, AS LIGHTS FLASH AND CIRCUITS WHIRR, THE MACHINE CALLED AUTOFAC WEIGHS AND CALCULATES THOUSANDS OF PIECES OF ISOLATED DATA! AND, FINALLY...
THIS CARD.. OF COURSE! NOW I KNOW WHERE I'VE HEARD THAT VOICE BEFORE.. OBSERVED THOSE SAME MANNERISMS, THAT SAME SUPERIOR ATTITUDE!
BRONSON MUST BE THE SUPREME HYDRA... AND THE SUPREME HYDRA IS...

THE NEXT SECOND, THE UNWARY GIRL IS FELLED BY A DOSAGE OF CHLOROFORM... AND THE SUDDENLY SINISTER FORM OF AGENT BRONSON STANDS OVER HER UNCONSCIOUS FORM...
YOU LITTLE FOOL! DID YOU THINK THAT I COULD FAIL TO NOTICE YOUR SUSPICIONS OF ME?
LUCKILY, I HAD REMAINED BEHIND IN THE AUTOFAC CHAMBER... TO MAKE CERTAIN THEY CAME TO NOTHING!

BUT NOW, BY COMING HERE, YOU HAVE PLAYED INTO MY HANDS!
AND, WITH YOUR UNWILLING AID, I SHALL SHAKE THE VERY FOUNDATIONS OF SHIELD... BEFORE I UTTERLY DESTROY IT!


MEANWHILE, IN ANOTHER PART OF THE SHIP, A MONUMENTAL CLASH HURTLES TOWARDS A CATACLYSMIC CLIMAX...
CAN'T TAKE... MUCH MORE... OF THEM GAMMA RAYS!
THIS ROBOT REPAIR RAT... MY ONLY CHANCE!
IT'S LOADED WITH PAINT FOR REPAIRIN' THE HULL... PAINT WITH A LEAD BASE!
IF THAT DON'T STOP THEM BLASTED RAYS.. NUTHIN' WILL!
SPLAK!
HERE'S MUD IN YER EYE, BUSTER!
YOU HAVE OBSCURED MY SCANNER ORBS! CAN'T SEE..!
HOW ABOUT THAT! THE INSTANT-DRYIN' PAINT COVERED THAT CREEP'S EYES... AND BLINDED 'IM!
HE'S GROPIN' AROUND LIKE A MAN IN THE DARK!
KWAM!
FURY... OPEN UP THIS BLAMED PLASTI-BARRIER SO'S WE CAN GIVE YOU A HAND!
ONE OF US WILL HAVE TO RUSH TO THE CONTROL ROOM, AGENT DUGAN!
FROM THERE, WE CAN OPEN IT MANUALLY!
OH NO YA DON'T, YA JAW-FLAPPIN GOLDBRICKS!
THIS IS MY FIGHT... AN' I'M TELLIN' YA TO BUTT OUT! THAT'S AN ORDER!
YEEESH! THAT WUZ CLOSE! LOOKS LIKE I AIN'T OUTTA THE WOODS YET!
HE'S SWINGIN' BLIND... BUT, I'M COOPED UP WITH 'IM IN HERE, WITH NO WAY OUT!
ON TOP O' THAT, MY TIME ON THAT OXYGEN PILL'S ABOUT UP, AN'... HEY! WHAT'RE THEY DOIN' HERE?
BUT, IN HIS ANXIETY TO PROTECT HIS FRIENDS FROM DANGER, NICK FURY HAS REVEALED HIS LOCATION TO THE DREADNOUGHT, AND...
YOU HAVE JUST SEALED YOUR OWN DOOM, MORTAL!
WOOSH!
FOR, NOW I NEED NO EYES... TO DESTROY YOU WITH MY FRIGI-BREATH!
THAT ROBOT'S GOT MORE WAYS TO KILL A MAN THAN CARTER'S HAS LITTLE PILLS! THE MOISTURE IN THE AIR'S... TURNIN' TO ICE!
GOTTA USE THIS LAST CIGAR... WHILE I CAN STILL MOVE!
SNAPP!
SEEMS TO ME LIKE I HEARD SOMEWHERES THAT TRI-SODIUM LOWERS THE FREEZIN' POINT...
NOW TO SLUG 'IM WHILE HE'S LEAST EXPECTIN' IT! GOTTA KEEP 'IM OFF-BALANCE!
WOK!
RASH FOOL! DID YOU THINK YOU COULD STUN ME?
UH OH! DIDN'T CLEAR OUT FAST ENUFF! HE'S RIGHT ON TOP OF ME!
10.


THINK OF THIS, NICK FURY, IN YOUR LAST, FLEETING SECONDS OF LIFE...
HE'S POISED FOR THE KILL!
THUS SHALL PERISH SHIELD.. AND ALL WHO OPPOSE THE INVINCIBLE POWER OF... HYDRA!
WAIT! I JUST RE-MEMBERED! I DO HAVE ONE MORE WEAPON...
HAIL HYDRA!
THE AUTO-DESTRUCT RING! IT'S RIGGED TO BLOW UP THREE SECONDS AFTER I REMOVE IT!
IT MAY TAKE ME WITH IT... BUT, AT LEAST I'LL SAVE SHIELD!
GOTTA AIM FOR THAT OPEN AREA AT THE BASE OF ITS SKULL!
ONE... TWO...
THEN, THE VERY AIR ITSELF SEEMS TO ERUPT IN A SCINTILLA OF BLINDING LIGHT... AS THE DREADNOUGHT'S METALLIC FRAME IS WRACKED BY A TUMULT OF VIOLENT EXPLOSIONS, AND NICK FURY IS HURLED AGAINST THE SIDE OF THE HELI-CARRIER...
KUH-WOOM!
...THREE!
SHIELD'S WON THIS ROUND... AND HYDRA'S GONNA HAFTA BUY ITSELF A NEW ERECTOR SET!
I GUESSED RIGHT! THE RING'S DESTRUCT DEVICE MUST'A SHORT-CIRCUITED THE ROBOT... AND NOW IT'S BLOWIN' ITSELF UP!

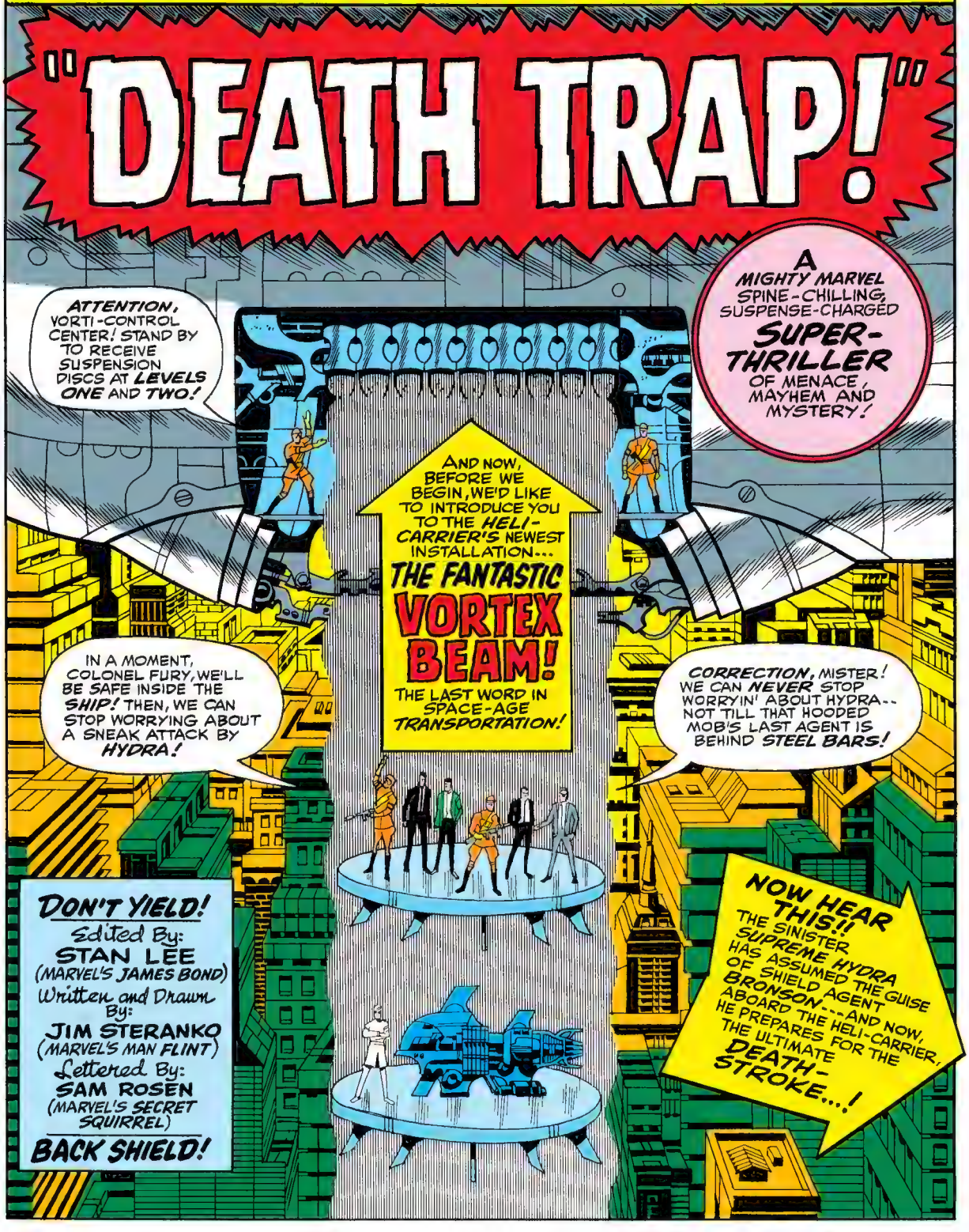

A SHORT TIME LATER, IGNORING THE WELL-MEANING ADVICE OF THE SHIP'S MEDICOS, THE SHIELD RAMROD LEADS HIS SMALL, TRUSTED COTERIE TOWARDS... THE AUTOFAC CHAMBER!
COLONEL FURY, SIR... WHAT ARE YOU DOING UP AND ABOUT?
WE HEARD YOU WERE CONFINED TO SICK BAY AFTER THAT BATTLE WITH THE HYDRA ROBOT!
I AIN'T GOT TIME TO GIT MY TEMPERATURE TAKEN, SOLDIER.. NOT WITH SUPREME HYDRA ON THE LOOSE!
ONLY THING IS, I WONDER WHERE LAURA BROWN IS! I WANTED HER IN ON THIS LITTLE CLAMBAKE!
SHE SEEMS TO HAVE VANISHED, SIR... WHILE YOU WERE FIGHTING THE DREAD-NOUGHT!
WELL, I'LL CLUE 'ER IN ON THE DETAILS, LATER!
RIGHT NOW, WE GOTTA FIND OUT IF THAT MECHANIZED STOOL PIGEON CAN TELL US WHO SUPREME HYDRA IS... BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!
BUT, AS NICK FURY ACTIVATES THE ENORMOUS ULTRA-COMPUTER, HE IS NOT PREPARED FOR THE ASTONISHING ANSWER IT GIVES...
COLONEL... LOOK!
AUTO-FAC SAYS THE SUPREME HYDRA IS... MISS BROWN!
I WOULDN'TA THOUGHT SO, BRONSON...
BUT NOW.. I AIN'T SO SURE!
CAN IT BE POSSIBLE, COLONEL?
IF I MAY, SIR... WHAT ABOUT THE ATTEMPTS HYDRA AGENTS MADE TO KILL HER? SURELY...
THEY COULD'A BEEN FAKED... SO WE'D TAKE HER ABOARD THE HELI-CARRIER!
BUT, COLONEL.. THE ROBOT CAME FROM OUTSIDE THE SHIP!
THEN.. AT THIS VERY MOMENT... SHE MAY BE PLANNING SOME NEW ACT OF SABOTAGE THAT MIGHT DESTROY SHIELD!
JUST THEN...
WE CHECKED THE FORCE FIELD MECHANISM, COLONEL... AND YOUR SUPPOSITION WAS CORRECT!
THE SCREEN WAS TURNED OFF TO ALLOW THE ROBOT'S ENTRY... TURNED OFF BY SOMEONE ON THE SHIP ITSELF!
THAT CLINCHES IT! IT MUST'A BEEN THE GIRL... SHE'S BEEN STRINGIN' US ALONG LIKE SO MANY SAPS!
A PERSON IS INNOCENT UNTIL PROVEN GUILTY, SIR! BESIDES, YOU SAID SHE ONCE SAVED YOUR LIFE!*
SHE MUST HAVE BETRAYED HER OWN FATHER.. SO THAT SHE COULD INHERIT THE MANTLE OF SUPREME HYDRA!
ALSO, SIR... THE SENTRY SAYS MISS BROWN GAINED ENTRANCE TO THIS SECTION EARLIER... AND HASN'T BEEN SEEN SINCE!
SHE MUST'A WANTED TO MONKEY WITH AUTOFAC...
* AND SO SHE DID ...IN STRANGE TALES # 139! -- STRAIGHT-FORWARD STAN.
BUT, WE MUST'A SHOWED UP AT THE WRONG TIME --- AN' SHE HADDA TAKE IT ON THE LAM!
WE'LL FIND 'ER... IF WE HAFTA TEAR THIS WHOLE BLASTED SHIP APART!
WE'LL TRY, COLONEL! BUT, THERE MAY NOT BE MUCH TIME--!
IN FACT, I KNOW THERE ISN'T, YOU FOOL! THE DREAD-NOUGHT WAS A DECOY-- INTENDED TO KILL YOU AND MAKE EASIER MY ACCESS TO AUTOFAC!
SINCE YOU SURVIVED, HOWEVER, MY VENGEANCE WILL NOW BE THAT MUCH SWEETER!
FOR, SOON I SHALL DESTROY BOTH YOU AND LAURA BROWN.. PERSONALLY!
NEXT: THE PLAN!
12.

STRANGE TALES
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
NICK FURY, AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D.
DOCTOR STRANGE
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
12¢ IND.
155 APR
STERANKO

# NICK FURY, AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D.!

## SUPREME HEADQUARTERS INTERNATIONAL ESPIONAGE LAW-ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

# "DEATH TRAP!"


ATTENTION, VORTI-CONTROL CENTER! STAND BY TO RECEIVE SUSPENSION DISCS AT LEVELS ONE AND TWO!
A MIGHTY MARVEL SPINE-CHILLING, SUSPENSE-CHARGED SUPER-THRILLER OF MENACE, MAYHEM AND MYSTERY!
AND NOW, BEFORE WE BEGIN, WE'D LIKE TO INTRODUCE YOU TO THE HELI-CARRIER'S NEWEST INSTALLATION... THE FANTASTIC VORTEX BEAM! THE LAST WORD IN SPACE-AGE TRANSPORTATION!
IN A MOMENT, COLONEL FURY, WE'LL BE SAFE INSIDE THE SHIP! THEN, WE CAN STOP WORRYING ABOUT A SNEAK ATTACK BY HYDRA!
CORRECTION, MISTER! WE CAN NEVER STOP WORRYIN' ABOUT HYDRA-- NOT TILL THAT HOODED MOB'S LAST AGENT IS BEHIND STEEL BARS!
NOW HEAR THIS!! THE SINISTER SUPREME HYDRA HAS ASSUMED THE GUISE OF SHIELD AGENT BRONSON---AND NOW, ABOARD THE HELI-CARRIER, HE PREPARES FOR THE ULTIMATE DEATH-STROKE...!

**DON'T YIELD!**

Edited By:
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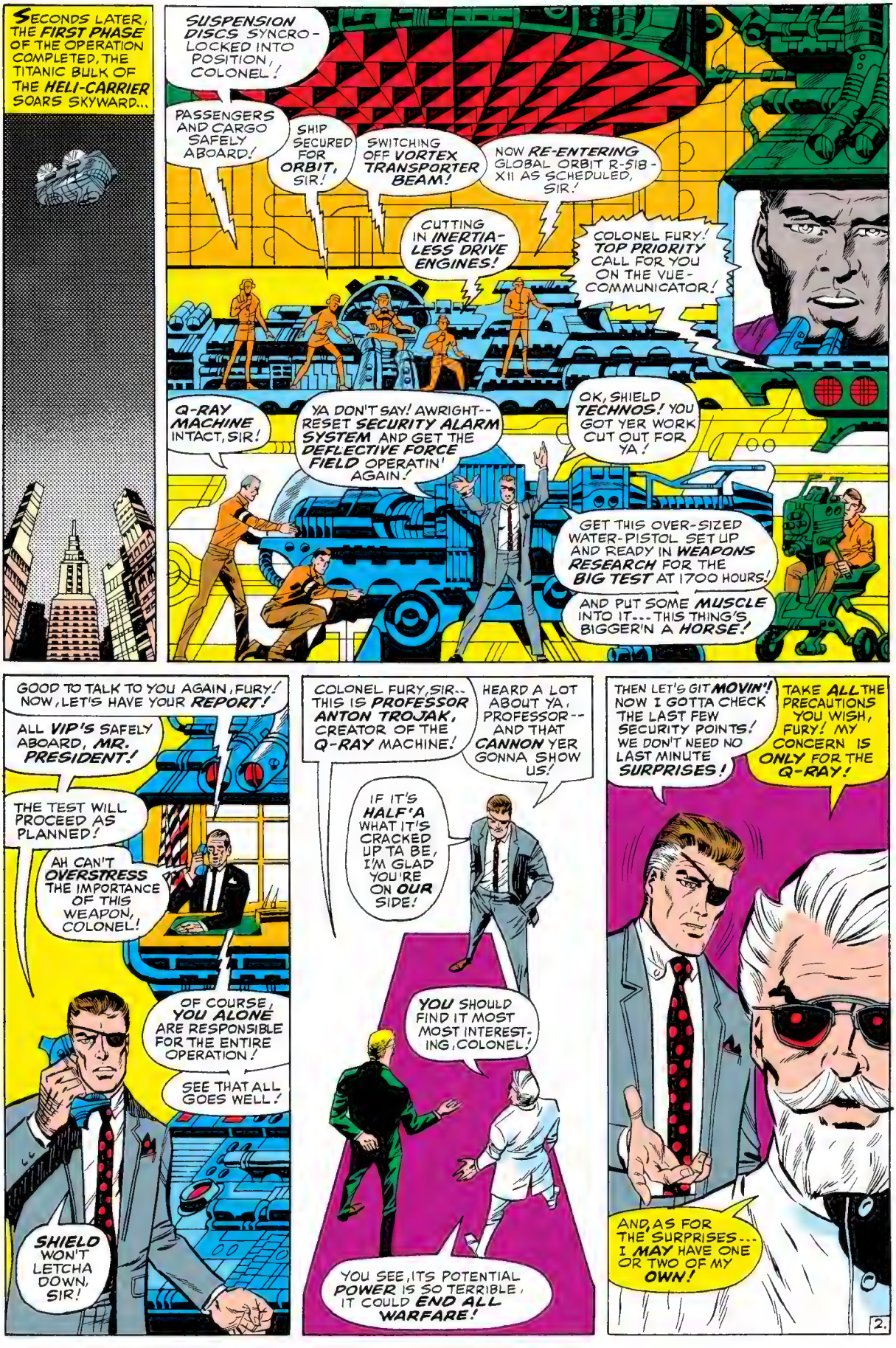
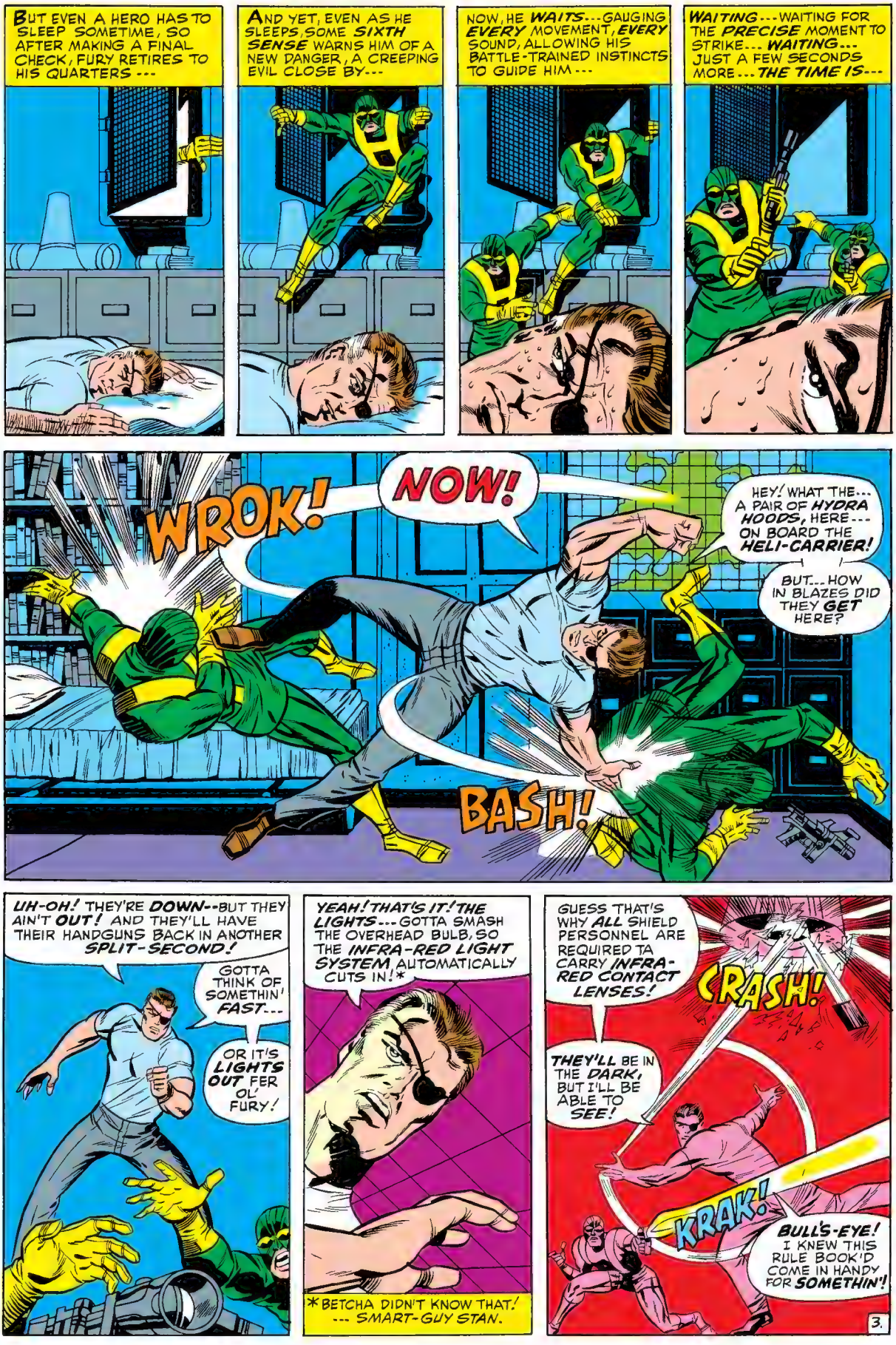
(MARVEL'S SECRET SQUIRREL)

**BACK SHIELD!**


SECONDS LATER, THE FIRST PHASE OF THE OPERATION COMPLETED, THE TITANIC BULK OF THE HELI-CARRIER SOARS SKYWARD...
SUSPENSION DISCS SYNCRO-LOCKED INTO POSITION, COLONEL!
PASSENGERS AND CARGO SAFELY ABOARD!
SHIP SECURED FOR ORBIT, SIR!
SWITCHING OFF VORTEX TRANSPORTER BEAM!
NOW RE-ENTERING GLOBAL ORBIT R-518-X11 AS SCHEDULED, SIR!
CUTTING IN INERTIA-LESS DRIVE ENGINES!
COLONEL FURY! TOP PRIORITY CALL FOR YOU ON THE VUE-COMMUNICATOR!
Q-RAY MACHINE INTACT, SIR!
YA DON'T SAY! AWRIGHT--RESET SECURITY ALARM SYSTEM AND GET THE DEFLECTIVE FORCE FIELD OPERATIN' AGAIN!
OK, SHIELD TECHNOS! YOU GOT YER WORK CUT OUT FOR YA!
GET THIS OVER-SIZED WATER-PISTOL SET UP AND READY IN WEAPONS RESEARCH FOR THE BIG TEST AT 1700 HOURS!
AND PUT SOME MUSCLE INTO IT---THIS THING'S BIGGER'N A HORSE!
GOOD TO TALK TO YOU AGAIN, FURY! NOW, LET'S HAVE YOUR REPORT!
ALL VIP'S SAFELY ABOARD, MR. PRESIDENT!
THE TEST WILL PROCEED AS PLANNED!
AH CAN'T OVERSTRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS WEAPON, COLONEL!
OF COURSE, YOU ALONE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ENTIRE OPERATION!
SEE THAT ALL GOES WELL!
SHIELD WON'T LETCHA DOWN, SIR!
COLONEL FURY, SIR--THIS IS PROFESSOR ANTON TROJAK, CREATOR OF THE Q-RAY MACHINE!
HEARD A LOT ABOUT YA, PROFESSOR--AND THAT CANNON YER GONNA SHOW US!
IF IT'S HALF'A WHAT IT'S CRACKED UP TA BE, I'M GLAD YOU'RE ON OUR SIDE!
YOU SHOULD FIND IT MOST MOST INTERESTING, COLONEL!
YOU SEE, ITS POTENTIAL POWER IS SO TERRIBLE, IT COULD END ALL WARFARE!
THEN LET'S GIT MOVIN'! NOW I GOTTA CHECK THE LAST FEW SECURITY POINTS! WE DON'T NEED NO LAST MINUTE SURPRISES!
TAKE ALL THE PRECAUTIONS YOU WISH, FURY! MY CONCERN IS ONLY FOR THE Q-RAY!
AND, AS FOR THE SURPRISES... I MAY HAVE ONE OR TWO OF MY OWN!
2.


BUT EVEN A HERO HAS TO SLEEP SOMETIME, SO AFTER MAKING A FINAL CHECK, FURY RETIRES TO HIS QUARTERS ---
AND YET, EVEN AS HE SLEEPS, SOME SIXTH SENSE WARNS HIM OF A NEW DANGER, A CREEPING EVIL CLOSE BY---
NOW, HE WAITS---GAUGING EVERY MOVEMENT, EVERY SOUND, ALLOWING HIS BATTLE-TRAINED INSTINCTS TO GUIDE HIM ---
WAITING---WAITING FOR THE PRECISE MOMENT TO STRIKE--- WAITING--- JUST A FEW SECONDS MORE---THE TIME IS---
WROK!
NOW!
HEY! WHAT THE... A PAIR OF HYDRA HOODS, HERE--- ON BOARD THE HELI-CARRIER!
BUT... HOW IN BLAZES DID THEY GET HERE?
BASH!
UH-OH! THEY'RE DOWN--BUT THEY AIN'T OUT! AND THEY'LL HAVE THEIR HANDGUNS BACK IN ANOTHER SPLIT-SECOND!
GOTTA THINK OF SOMETHIN' FAST---
OR IT'S LIGHTS OUT FER OL' FURY!
YEAH! THAT'S IT! THE LIGHTS--- GOTTA SMASH THE OVERHEAD BULB, SO THE INFRA-RED LIGHT SYSTEM AUTOMATICALLY CUTS IN!*
*BETCHA DIDN'T KNOW THAT! --- SMART-GUY STAN.
GUESS THAT'S WHY ALL SHIELD PERSONNEL ARE REQUIRED TA CARRY INFRA-RED CONTACT LENSES!
CRASH!
THEY'LL BE IN THE DARK, BUT I'LL BE ABLE TO SEE!
KRAK!
BULL'S-EYE! I KNEW THIS RULE BOOK'D COME IN HANDY FOR SOMETHIN'!
3.

HE'S DIRECTLY IN FRONT OF US, NUMBER 7!
I KNOW, NUMBER 11! SHOOT TO KILL!
WELL I'LL BE... IT'S THE BLASTED 7!! HYDRA TEAM OF ASSASSINS...
THA-WAK!
MEBBE I COULD TAKE 'EM OUT WITH A TRICK SHOELACE OR TIE PIN --- BUT SINCE THERE'S ONLY TWO OF 'EM ---
CRUNCH!
WHADAYA KNOW?!! TWO GUN FLASHES -- AT ONCE!
THEY'VE GOT ME PIN-POINTED FOR SURE NOW!
WOK!
I'LL LET 'EM GO, SO'S THEY CAN TRAP ME IN A CROSSFIRE--!
AND THEN-- I MOVE!
THAT DID IT! THESE TWO HYDRA JOKERS WERE SO EAGER THEY OUTSMARTED THEMSELVES!
BLAM!
YEAH---THEY BOTH CASHED IN! BUT I AIN'T DOIN' ANY CELEBRATIN'!
WITH THEM POLISHED OFF, THE SECRET OF THEIR MISSION DIED WITH 'EM!
4.

THEN, SCANT MINUTES LATER, THE INTREPID SHIELD RAMROD CALLS HIS **TOP AGENTS** INTO CONFERENCE, LITTLE KNOWING THAT DIRECTLY **ACROSS** THE ROOM STANDS THE VERY MAN WHO HAS TAKEN A **BLOOD OATH** TO DESTROY HIM--AND, IN TURN, ALL THOSE WHO WORK FOR THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION KNOWN AS... **SHIELD!**

I CALLED THE FOUR OF YA HERE, 'CAUSE YER MY **BEST** MEN! AS OF RIGHT NOW, YER ON SPECIAL DUTY!

ALL DURIN' THE DAY, WE BEEN TAKIN' A COUPLA DOZEN OF THE COUNTRY'S **MOST IMPORTANT** MEN ON BOARD!

OUR JOB... **PROTECT 'EM**... AND THAT TOP-SECRET GADGET THEY CALL THE **Q-RAY!**

HERE'S THE **CLINCHER!** A PAIR OF **HYDRA KILLERS** JUST **ATTACKED** ME! I DON'T KNOW HOW THEY GOT ABOARD--BUT THEY DID!

AND BEFORE I COULD GET ANYTHIN' OUT OF 'EM, THEY DIED! NO TELLIN' WHAT **DAMAGE** THEY **ALREADY** DID!

**SO LISTEN GOOD!** I GOT A FEELIN' SOMETHIN'S GONNA HAPPEN IN THAT **TEST ROOM**--AND WE GOTTA HANDLE IT...OR **ELSE!**

BUT, SIR, AFTER YOU WERE ATTACKED BY THE **DREADNOUGHT**,* OUR SECURITY PROCEDURES WERE **TIGHTENED CONSIDERABLY!**

COOL IT, JASP!

*ISH #154 --SMILEY

THOSE HYDRA GUYS ARE **PLENTY** SMART! ONLY A FOOL **UNDERRATES** HIS ENEMY! I WOULDN'T BE HALF-SURPRISED IF **ONE** OF 'EM WAS IN **THIS VERY ROOM!**

DON'T WORRY 'BOUT THAT! WITH THE **FIVE** O'US KEEPIN' AN EYE ON THINGS, NOBODY, **EVEN HYDRA**, WOULD DARE START ANYTHIN'!

'SIDES, WE BEAT 'EM **BEFORE!** SURE, AN' WE CAN DO IT **AGAIN!**

THERE'S **ALWAYS** A FIRST TIME, DUGAN! BESIDES, YOU'RE FORGETTIN' THE **GIRL** STILL HASN'T BEEN FOUND! **AUTOFAC** DID NAME HER AS THE **SUPREME HYDRA**, Y'KNOW!

GLAD YA BROUGHT THAT UP, BRONSON! **COUPL'A** THINGS ABOUT THAT JUST **DON'T ADD UP!**

BUT **I** AIN'T GOT THE ANSWERS, EITHER---

**NOT YET!**

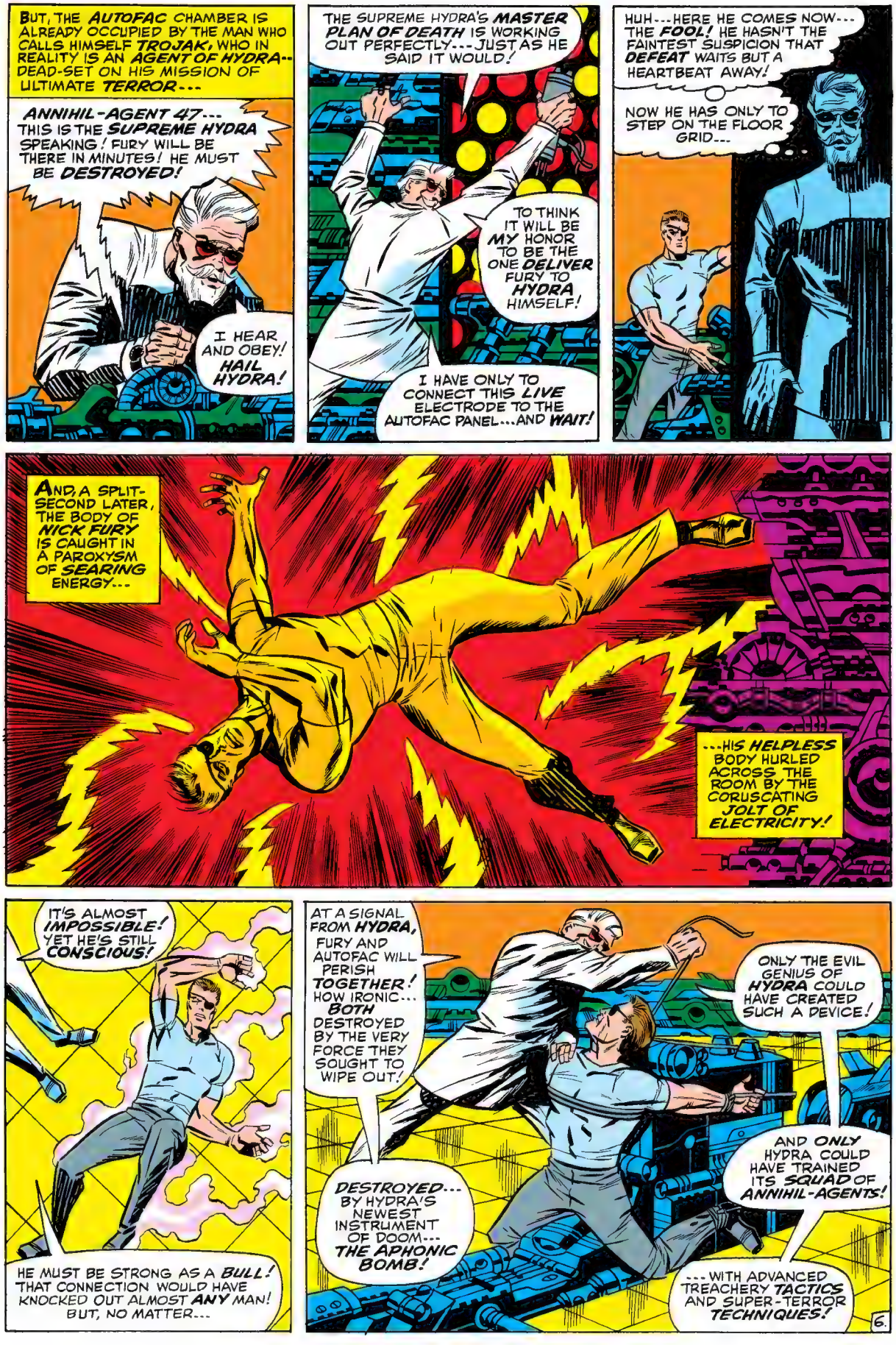
REST ASSURED, COLONEL! WE'LL DO OUR **UTMOST** TO PREVENT ANY PREMEDITATED SUBVERSION!

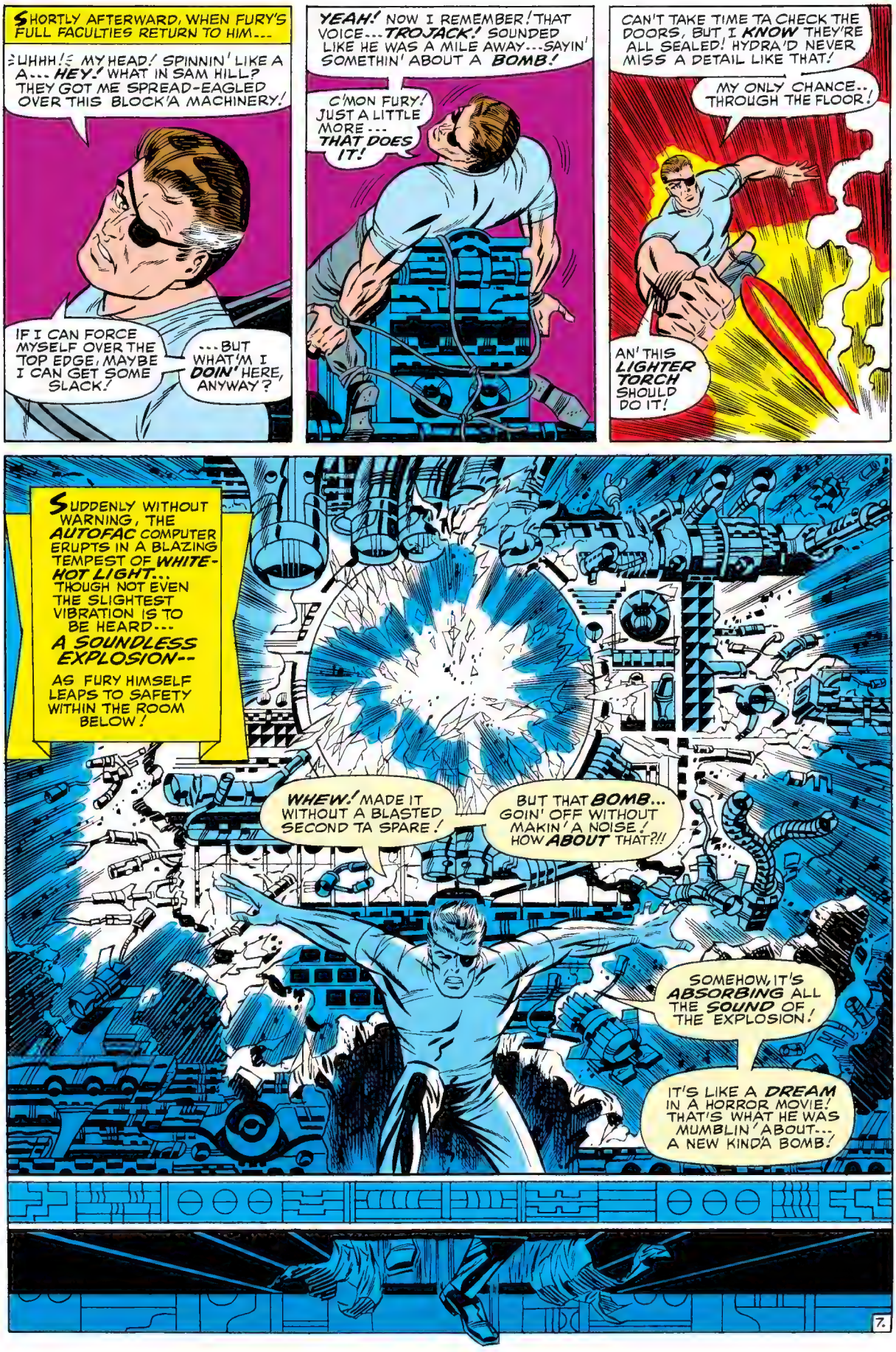
SURE, SURE, SIT-WELL! YA GOT YER **ORDERS!** MEET ME IN THE TEST ROOM IN HALF AN HOUR!

RIGHT NOW, I'M HEADIN' FOR THE **AUTOFAC** CHAMBER! JUST GOT A **HUNCH** THAT MIGHT HELP SOLVE A FEW QUESTIONS!

FURY'S RIGHT, MEN! BUT BEFORE WE GO, THERE'S SOMETHING HERE I WANT TO SHOW YOU!

LOOK CLOSELY AT THE STONE IN MY **RING!** LOOK DEEP... **DEEPER... DEEPER...**


BUT, THE AUTOFAC CHAMBER IS ALREADY OCCUPIED BY THE MAN WHO CALLS HIMSELF TROJAK, WHO IN REALITY IS AN AGENT OF HYDRA--DEAD-SET ON HIS MISSION OF ULTIMATE TERROR---
ANNIHIL-AGENT 47--- THIS IS THE SUPREME HYDRA SPEAKING! FURY WILL BE THERE IN MINUTES! HE MUST BE DESTROYED!
I HEAR AND OBEY! HAIL HYDRA!
THE SUPREME HYDRA'S MASTER PLAN OF DEATH IS WORKING OUT PERFECTLY---JUST AS HE SAID IT WOULD!
TO THINK IT WILL BE MY HONOR TO BE THE ONE DELIVER FURY TO HYDRA HIMSELF!
I HAVE ONLY TO CONNECT THIS LIVE ELECTRODE TO THE AUTOFAC PANEL...AND WAIT!
HUH---HERE HE COMES NOW--- THE FOOL! HE HASN'T THE FAINTEST SUSPICION THAT DEFEAT WAITS BUT A HEARTBEAT AWAY!
NOW HE HAS ONLY TO STEP ON THE FLOOR GRID---
AND, A SPLIT-SECOND LATER, THE BODY OF NICK FURY IS CAUGHT IN A PAROXYSM OF SEARING ENERGY---
---HIS HELPLESS BODY HURLED ACROSS THE ROOM BY THE CORUSCATING JOLT OF ELECTRICITY!
IT'S ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE! YET HE'S STILL CONSCIOUS!
HE MUST BE STRONG AS A BULL! THAT CONNECTION WOULD HAVE KNOCKED OUT ALMOST ANY MAN! BUT, NO MATTER...
AT A SIGNAL FROM HYDRA, FURY AND AUTOFAC WILL PERISH TOGETHER! HOW IRONIC... BOTH DESTROYED BY THE VERY FORCE THEY SOUGHT TO WIPE OUT!
DESTROYED... BY HYDRA'S NEWEST INSTRUMENT OF DOOM... THE APHONIC BOMB!
ONLY THE EVIL GENIUS OF HYDRA COULD HAVE CREATED SUCH A DEVICE!
AND ONLY HYDRA COULD HAVE TRAINED ITS SQUAD OF ANNIHIL-AGENTS!
---WITH ADVANCED TREACHERY TACTICS AND SUPER-TERROR TECHNIQUES!
6.

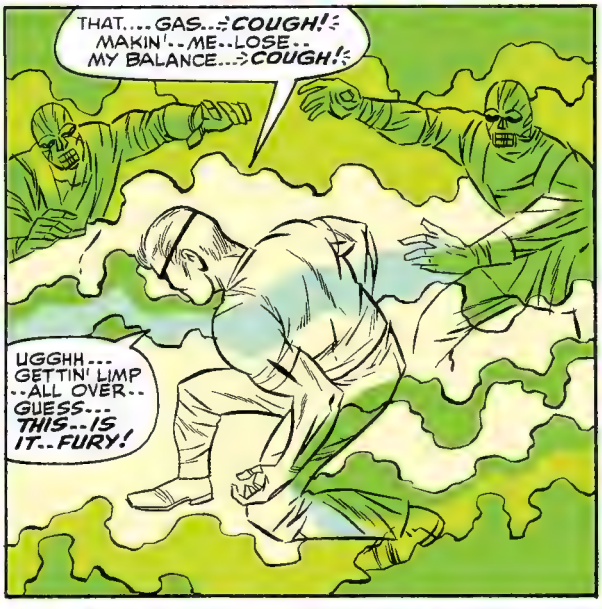

SHORTLY AFTERWARD, WHEN FURY'S FULL FACULTIES RETURN TO HIM---
UHHH!... MY HEAD! SPINNIN' LIKE A A--- HEY! WHAT IN SAM HILL? THEY GOT ME SPREAD-EAGLED OVER THIS BLOCK'A MACHINERY!
IF I CAN FORCE MYSELF OVER THE TOP EDGE, MAYBE I CAN GET SOME SLACK!
---BUT WHAT'M I DOIN' HERE, ANYWAY?
YEAH! NOW I REMEMBER! THAT VOICE--- TROJACK! SOUNDED LIKE HE WAS A MILE AWAY---SAYIN' SOMETHIN' ABOUT A BOMB!
C'MON FURY! JUST A LITTLE MORE--- THAT DOES IT!
CAN'T TAKE TIME TA CHECK THE DOORS, BUT I KNOW THEY'RE ALL SEALED! HYDRA'D NEVER MISS A DETAIL LIKE THAT!
MY ONLY CHANCE.. THROUGH THE FLOOR!
AN' THIS LIGHTER TORCH SHOULD DO IT!
SUDDENLY WITHOUT WARNING, THE AUTOFAC COMPUTER ERUPTS IN A BLAZING TEMPEST OF WHITE-HOT LIGHT... THOUGH NOT EVEN THE SLIGHTEST VIBRATION IS TO BE HEARD--- A SOUNDLESS EXPLOSION--
AS FURY HIMSELF LEAPS TO SAFETY WITHIN THE ROOM BELOW!
WHEW! MADE IT WITHOUT A BLASTED SECOND TA SPARE!
BUT THAT BOMB... GOIN' OFF WITHOUT MAKIN' A NOISE! HOW ABOUT THAT?!!
SOMEHOW, IT'S ABSORBING ALL THE SOUND OF THE EXPLOSION!
IT'S LIKE A DREAM IN A HORROR MOVIE! THAT'S WHAT HE WAS MUMBLIN' ABOUT--- A NEW KINDA BOMB!

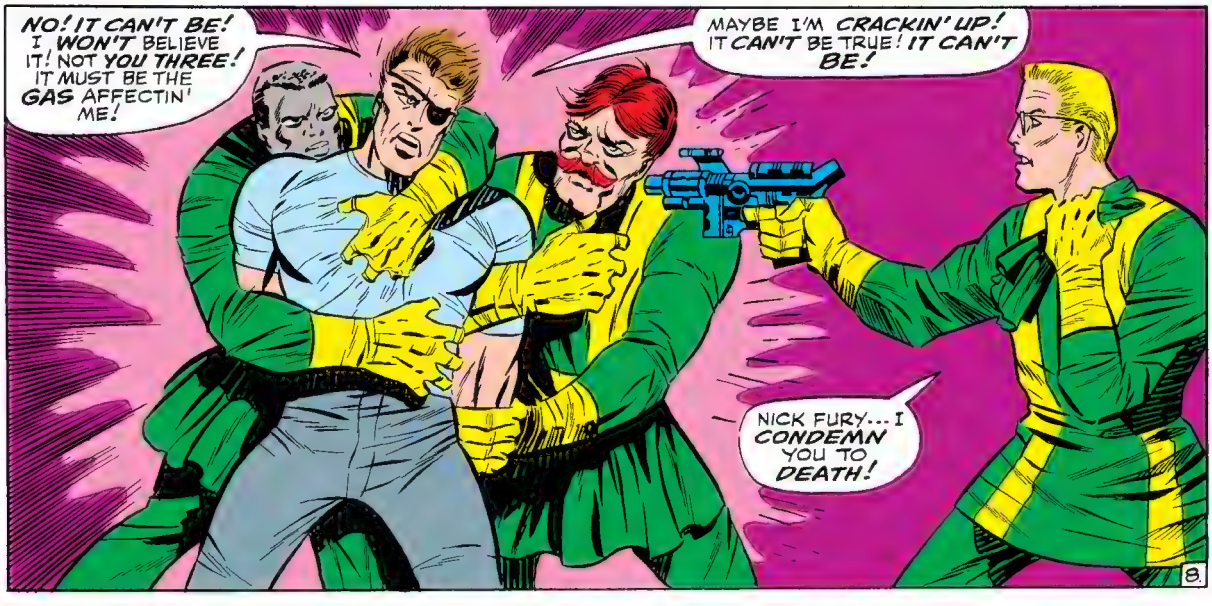
LUCKY I HAD MY ELECTRONIC ABSORBER IN MY POCKET! * THAT JOLT OF ELECTRICITY WOULD'A FINISHED ME FOR SURE!
BUT NOW I GOT ME SOME ANSWERS!
*REMEMBER LAST ISH? --SECRETIVE STAN.

THE Q-RAY MACHINE... I SAID IT WAS BIGGER'N A HORSE AND DIDN'T KNOW HOW CLOSE I WAS TO THE TRUTH! A HORSE --- A TROJAN HORSE!
THAT FAKE PROFESSOR MUST'A SMUGGLED THOSE TWO HYDRA FINKS ABOARD INSIDE THAT GIZMO!
COME TA THINK OF IT, THERE MAY BE EVEN MORE OF 'EM AROUND!

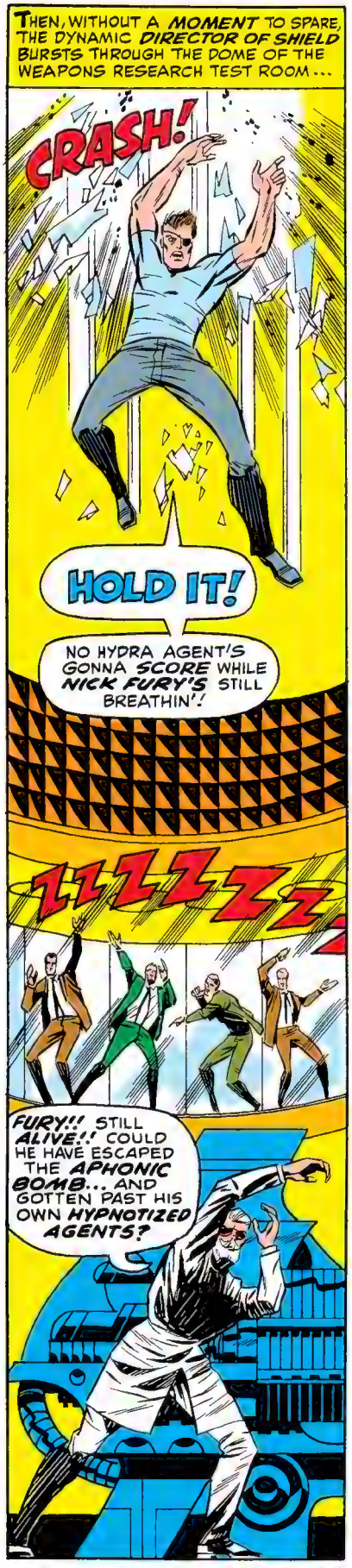
GOTTA STOP THAT TEST! THE PLACE IS CRAWLIN' WITH TOP GOVERNMENT MEN! AN' ALL OF 'EM ARE IN DANGER!

WHAT IN BLUE BLAZES...! THIS IS GETTIN' TA BE A HABIT! THREE MORE HOODS!
COULD IT BE THEY'VE ALREADY TAKEN OVER THE HELI-CARRIER?
FFFFFSST!

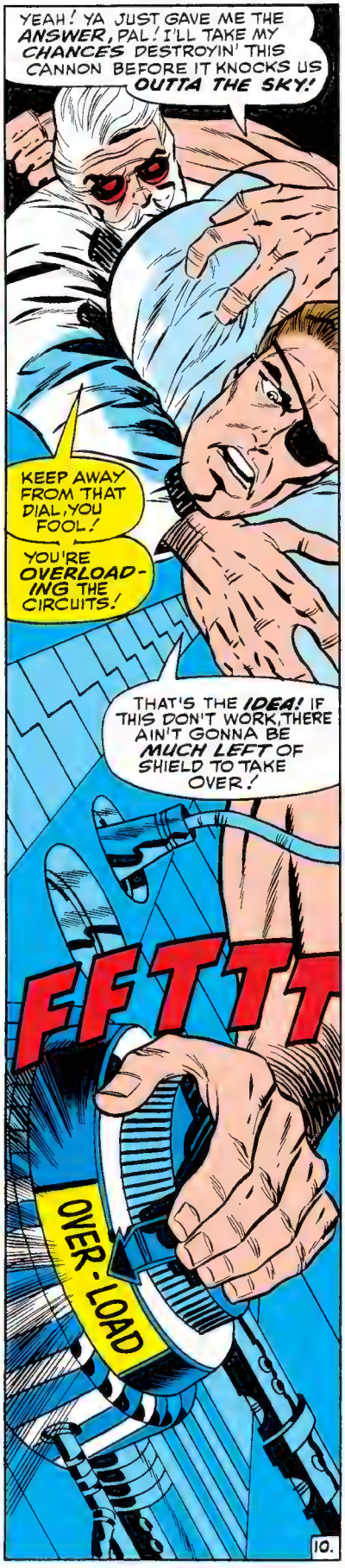

THAT.... GAS..--COUGH!-- MAKIN'--ME--LOSE-- MY BALANCE...--COUGH!--
UGGHH... GETTIN' LIMP --ALL OVER-- GUESS... THIS--IS IT--FURY!

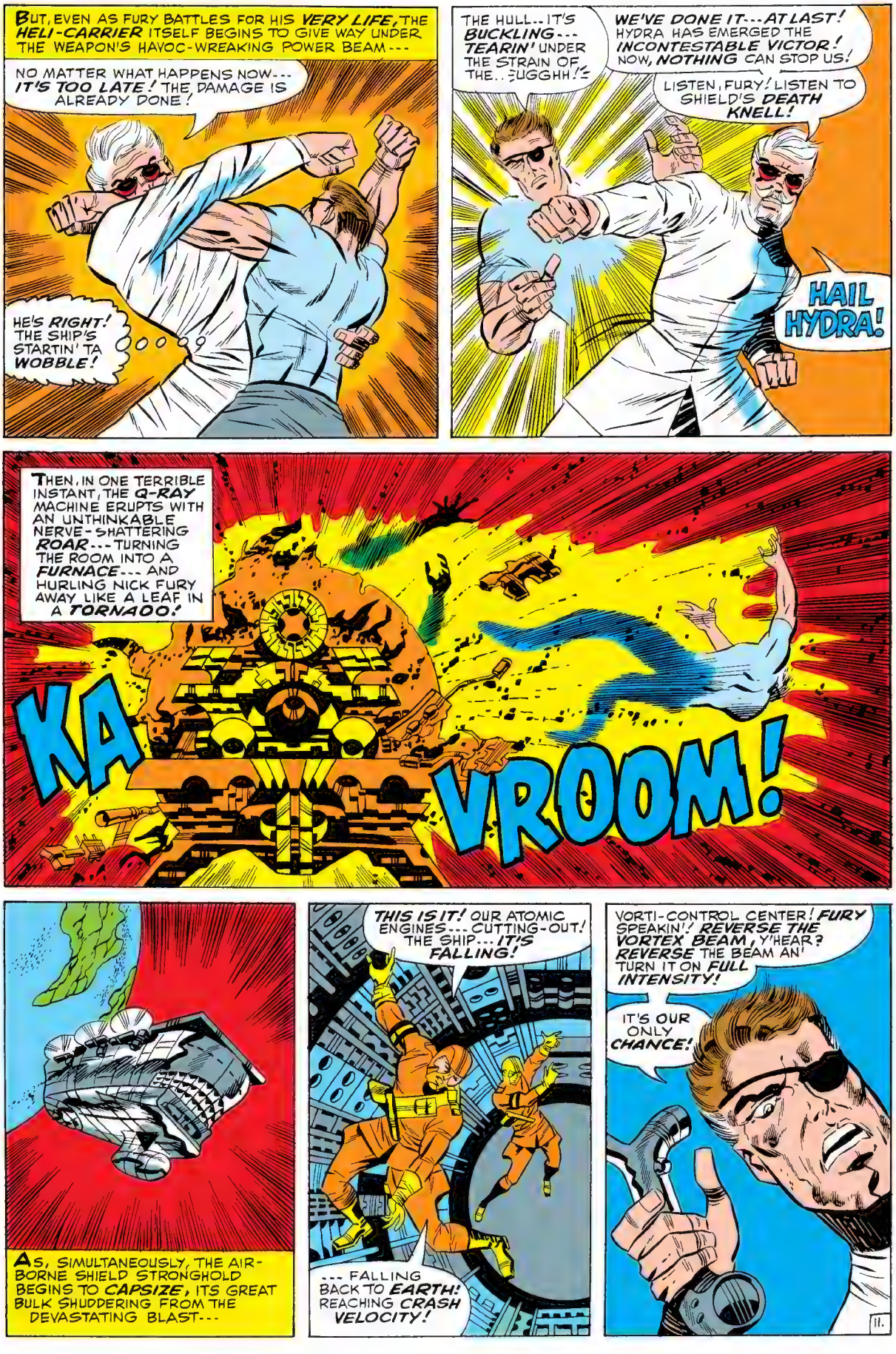

NO! IT CAN'T BE! I WON'T BELIEVE IT! NOT YOU THREE! IT MUST BE THE GAS AFFECTIN' ME!
MAYBE I'M CRACKIN' UP! IT CAN'T BE TRUE! IT CAN'T BE!
NICK FURY... I CONDEMN YOU TO DEATH!

AND, SO SAYING, THE SHIELD AGENT'S FINGER BEGINS TO TIGHTEN ON THE TRIGGER--- HIS TRANCE-LIKE FACE TELLING OF THE INCREDIBLE TURMOIL SEETHING WITHIN---
THEN, THE OVERWHELMING FORCE OF THE SPELL SWEEPS OVER HIS EGO, AS ONCE AGAIN, THE SUPREME HYDRA'S COMMAND ECHOES THROUGH HIS MIND---
KILL FURY
KILL FURY
KILL FURY
C'MON, SITWELL---YOU GOT THE GUN---WHAT'RE YA WAITIN' FER.. QUIT STALLIN', MISTER...YUH GONNA USE THAT THING OR NOT?!
C'MON, JUNIOR--- PULL THE TRIGGER--- YA HEAR? PULL THE TRIGGER!
WHILE, JUST OUTSIDE THE WEAPONS TEST ROOM---
THE FOOLS INSIDE HAVE SEALED OFF THE ROOM FOR ABSOLUTE SECURITY! NOT EVEN THEIR OWN MEN CAN SAVE THEM NOW!
IN A MOMENT, TROJACK WILL TURN THE Q-RAY ON AND SLAUGHTER THEM ALL, WHILE I ALONE WILL ESCAPE IN THE SAUCER SHIP!
FURY'S FINISHED BY NOW! SHIELD NEVER SUSPECTED THAT HYDRA SWITCHED ME FOR THE REAL TROJAK, AFTER THEY CHANGED MY FACE IN THE E-M MACHINE!*
AND THIS DEMONSTRATES THE VITAL FORCE OF THE Q-RAY! IT BREAKS DOWN THE MOLECULAR STRUCTURE OF ANY OBJECT---SCATTERING ALL ITS ATOMS--- UTTERLY DESTROYING IT!
NOW, GENTLEMEN... YOU SHALL TRULY WITNESS THE AWESOME POWER OF THE Q-RAY-- FOR ALL OF YOU WILL BE CAUGHT IN ITS DEADLY RAYS--- WITHIN SECONDS!
HAIL HYDRA!
*THE EPIDERM-MASK MACHINE... ISH #153--- WHO ELSE?
9.


THEN, WITHOUT A MOMENT TO SPARE, THE DYNAMIC DIRECTOR OF SHIELD BURSTS THROUGH THE DOME OF THE WEAPONS RESEARCH TEST ROOM...
CRASH!
HOLD IT!
NO HYDRA AGENT'S GONNA SCORE WHILE NICK FURY'S STILL BREATHIN'!
ZZZZZZ
FURY!! STILL ALIVE!! COULD HE HAVE ESCAPED THE APHONIC BOMB... AND GOTTEN PAST HIS OWN HYPNOTIZED AGENTS?

SORRY TO DISAPPOINT YA, MISTER! BUT IT'LL TAKE MORE'N THAT TO GET ME OUTTA THE GAME!
YOU OUTSMARTED YERSELVES WHEN YOU THOUGHT YOU COULD USE MY OWN MEN AGAINST ME!
NO MATTER WHAT KIND'A TRANCE SIT-WELL WAS IN, HE'D NEVER TURN AGAINST SHIELD!
IT'S AGAINST HIS PRINCIPLES!
THEN, YOU'VE ONLY DELAYED THE INEVITABLE! YOU SEE, ONCE THE Q-RAY IS TURNED ON, IT CANNOT BE STOPPED!
ZZZZZZ
RRRRAAKKK!


YEAH! YA JUST GAVE ME THE ANSWER, PAL! I'LL TAKE MY CHANCES DESTROYIN' THIS CANNON BEFORE IT KNOCKS US OUTTA THE SKY!
KEEP AWAY FROM THAT DIAL, YOU FOOL!
YOU'RE OVERLOAD-ING THE CIRCUITS!
THAT'S THE IDEA! IF THIS DON'T WORK, THERE AIN'T GONNA BE MUCH LEFT OF SHIELD TO TAKE OVER!
FFTTT
OVER-LOAD


BUT, EVEN AS FURY BATTLES FOR HIS VERY LIFE, THE HELI-CARRIER ITSELF BEGINS TO GIVE WAY UNDER THE WEAPON'S HAVOC-WREAKING POWER BEAM---
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS NOW--- IT'S TOO LATE! THE DAMAGE IS ALREADY DONE!
HE'S RIGHT! THE SHIP'S STARTIN' TA WOBBLE!
THE HULL--IT'S BUCKLING--- TEARIN' UNDER THE STRAIN OF THE..UGGHH!
WE'VE DONE IT---AT LAST! HYDRA HAS EMERGED THE INCONTESTABLE VICTOR! NOW, NOTHING CAN STOP US!
LISTEN, FURY! LISTEN TO SHIELD'S DEATH KNELL!
HAIL HYDRA!
THEN, IN ONE TERRIBLE INSTANT, THE Q-RAY MACHINE ERUPTS WITH AN UNTHINKABLE NERVE-SHATTERING ROAR---TURNING THE ROOM INTO A FURNACE--- AND HURLING NICK FURY AWAY LIKE A LEAF IN A TORNADO!
KA
VROOM!
AS, SIMULTANEOUSLY, THE AIR-BORNE SHIELD STRONGHOLD BEGINS TO CAPSIZE, ITS GREAT BULK SHUDDERING FROM THE DEVASTATING BLAST---
THIS IS IT! OUR ATOMIC ENGINES---CUTTING-OUT! THE SHIP---IT'S FALLING!
--- FALLING BACK TO EARTH! REACHING CRASH VELOCITY!
VORTI-CONTROL CENTER! FURY SPEAKIN'! REVERSE THE VORTEX BEAM, Y'HEAR? REVERSE THE BEAM AN' TURN IT ON FULL INTENSITY!
IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE!
11.

THEN, A TRIAD OF VORTEX BEAMS STAB EARTHWARD, FROM BENEATH THE HULL, FORMING A TRIANGLE .... MOMENTARILY SUSPENDING THE SHIP IN ITS DOWNWARD PLUNGE---
IT'S WORKIN'... HOLDIN' US UP!
ALL TECHNOS TO THE ENGINE ROOMS! ON THE DOUBLE!
GET THOSE GENERATORS COOKIN'! THIS AIN'T NO BLASTED SEWIN' BEE!
COLONEL FURY, ENGINE ROOM REPAIRS ALMOST COMPLETED! THE HELI-CARRIER WILL BE UNDER ITS OWN POWER IN A FEW MOMENTS!
O.K., SOLDIER! NOW GET BACK TO YOUR STATION--- THE PARTY AIN'T OVER YET!
ONE MORE THING, SIR! THEY FOUND MISS BROWN'S BODY AMID THE WRECKAGE IN THE AUTOFAC CHAMBER!
HER BODY? DOES THAT MEAN--?!!
SECONDS LATER...
IT'S HER--- AN' SHE'S STILL ALIVE! GOT TO GET HER TO A HOSPITAL FOR EMERGENCY TREATMENT--AND FAST!
SHE MUST'A BEEN HIDIN' IN AUTOFAC'S COMPUTER VAULTS---NO WONDER WE DIDN'T FIND HER! BUT WHAT'S SHE DOIN' IN THE HYDRA OUTFIT? IT JUST DON'T ADD UP!
COLONEL FURY! TOP PRIORITY CALL--FROM THE PRESIDENT!
FURY--- SHIELD COMMUNICATIONS JUST GAVE ME ITS REPORT! FORTUNATELY, VERY FEW WERE HURT! NEVERTHELESS, YOU WERE IN CHARGE AND UNTIL AH GET A FULL EXPLANATION, YOU ARE CONFINED TO QUARTERS!
BUT, MR. PRESIDENT, WE'VE LOCATED THE GIRL--- AND SHE NEEDS MEDICAL ATTENTION AT ONCE! I WAS PLANNIN' TO TAKE HER---
AH'M SORRY, COLONEL! IT'S ALREADY BEEN ATTENDED TO! SINCE SITWELL, JONES, AND DUGAN ARE UNFIT FOR THE MOMENT---
ORDERS HAVE BEEN SENT TO HAVE AGENT BRONSON ESCORT THE GIRL IN YOUR SAUCER SHIP!
BUT, SIR... I WANTED TO--
THAT'S ALL, FURY! WASHINGTON OUT!
WE WERE REAL LUCKY! WE JUST BARELY SCRAPED BY WITH OUR LIVES! BUT I GOT A FEELIN' THAT ALL THIS IS A PRELUDE OF CERTAIN DEATH!
...A FEELIN' THAT HYDRA'S BEEN SETTIN' US UP FOR THE BIG ONE!
SOMETHIN' SO BIG--IT'S BEYOND OUR IMAGI-NATION!
YOU'LL HAVE TO COME WITH ME NOW, SIR!
I KNOW, SOLDIER! I KNOW!
NEXT... TRAPPED ON HYDRA ISLAND!
12.

# NICK FURY, AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D.!

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS INTERNATIONAL ESPIONAGE LAW-ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

# "THE TRIBUNAL!"

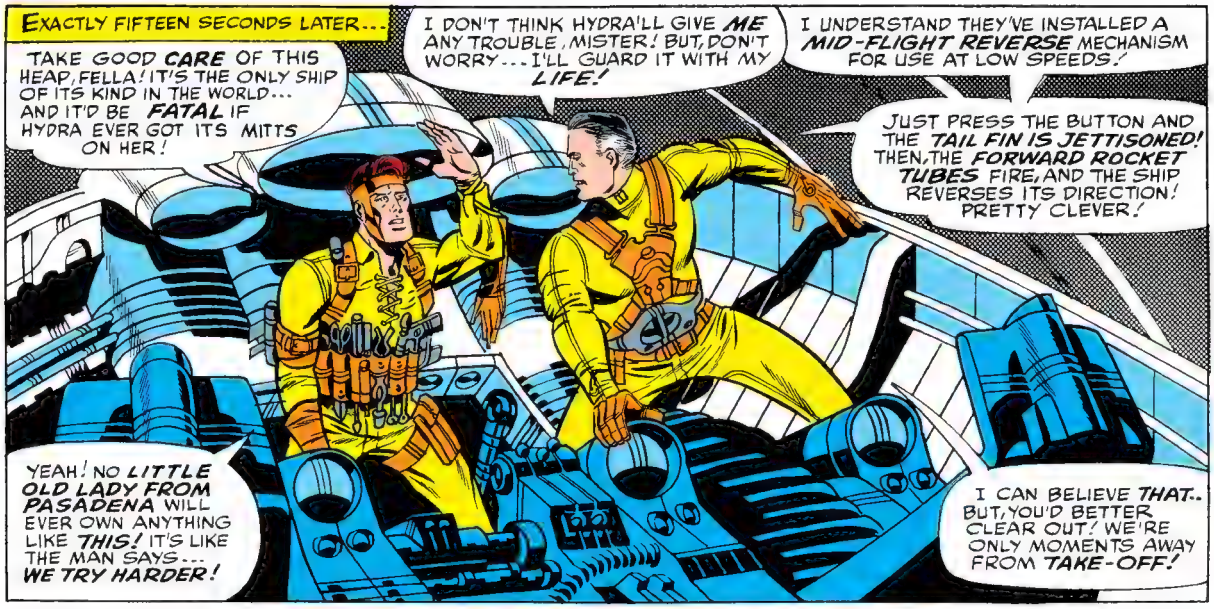
NICK FURY CONFINED TO QUARTERS UNDER ARMED GUARD! THE SUPREME HYDRA (DISGUISED AS AGENT BRONSON) ABOUT TO ESCAPE FROM THE HELI-CARRIER WITH THE CRITICALLY-ILL LAURA BROWN! ALL THIS AND JASPER SITWELL, TOO? YOU'D BETTER BELIEVE IT, TIGER! NOW, READ ON...THAT'S AN ORDER!
AND, AS IF YOU WEREN'T ALREADY GETTIN' YOUR 12¢ WORTH...WE'RE TOSSIN' IN A PREMIERE SHOWING OF THE DYNAMIC DYNA-SOAR, WHICH IS MERELY TONY STARK'S LATEST CONTRIBUTION TO SHIELD'S AWESOME AIRBORNE ARSENAL!!
AGENT BRONSON---WE GOT ORDERS FROM COLONEL FURY BEFORE HE WAS CONFINED TO GET THE DYNA-SOAR READY FOR YOU! IT'S A VASTLY IMPROVED MODIFICATION OF THE SAUCER SHIP---EQUIPPED WITH ALL OUR LATEST WEAPONS AND A VORTEX BEAM FOR EMERGENCY ESCAPE!
LOOKS LIKE THE FASTEST THING IN THE SKIES! AND I HEAR IT'S ALSO OPERATIONAL UNDERWATER!
IT'LL BE PERFECT FOR MY MISSION---DIRECT ORDERS FROM WASHINGTON TO ESCORT MISS BROWN TO EARTH FOR EMERGENCY TREATMENT!
DYNA-SOAR READY FOR BLAST-OFF, SIR!
GOOD! PREPARE TO BOARD, BRONSON! THEY'LL BE BRINGING THE GIRL AT ANY MOMENT!

## FEATURING: "HYDRA UNMASKED!"

EDITED BY STAN LEE
*BEHIND LOCKED DOORS!*

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY JIM STERANKO
*UNDER TOP SECURITY!*

LETTERED BY SAM ROSEN
*IN FRONT OF THE TV!*

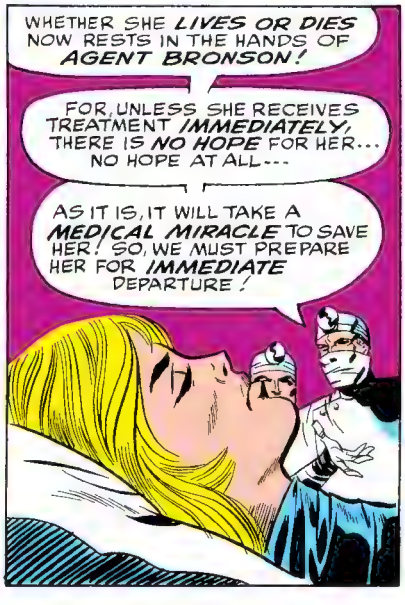

EXACTLY FIFTEEN SECONDS LATER...
TAKE GOOD CARE OF THIS HEAP, FELLA! IT'S THE ONLY SHIP OF ITS KIND IN THE WORLD... AND IT'D BE FATAL IF HYDRA EVER GOT ITS MITTS ON HER!
I DON'T THINK HYDRA'LL GIVE ME ANY TROUBLE, MISTER! BUT, DON'T WORRY... I'LL GUARD IT WITH MY LIFE!
I UNDERSTAND THEY'VE INSTALLED A MID-FLIGHT REVERSE MECHANISM FOR USE AT LOW SPEEDS!
JUST PRESS THE BUTTON AND THE TAIL FIN IS JETTISONED! THEN, THE FORWARD ROCKET TUBES FIRE, AND THE SHIP REVERSES ITS DIRECTION! PRETTY CLEVER!
YEAH! NO LITTLE OLD LADY FROM PASADENA WILL EVER OWN ANYTHING LIKE THIS! IT'S LIKE THE MAN SAYS... WE TRY HARDER!
I CAN BELIEVE THAT.. BUT, YOU'D BETTER CLEAR OUT! WE'RE ONLY MOMENTS AWAY FROM TAKE-OFF!

OKAY, BRONSON! YOU'VE ALREADY HAD YOUR FLIGHT BRIEFING... SO, I GUESS ALL I CAN SAY IS GOOD LUCK! AND REMEMBER, ALL OF SHIELD'LL BE PULLIN' FOR YOU!
DON'T WORRY, PAL! NOTHING SHORT OF DEATH WILL STOP ME FROM CARRYING OUT MY MISSION! NOW, GET CRACKING!

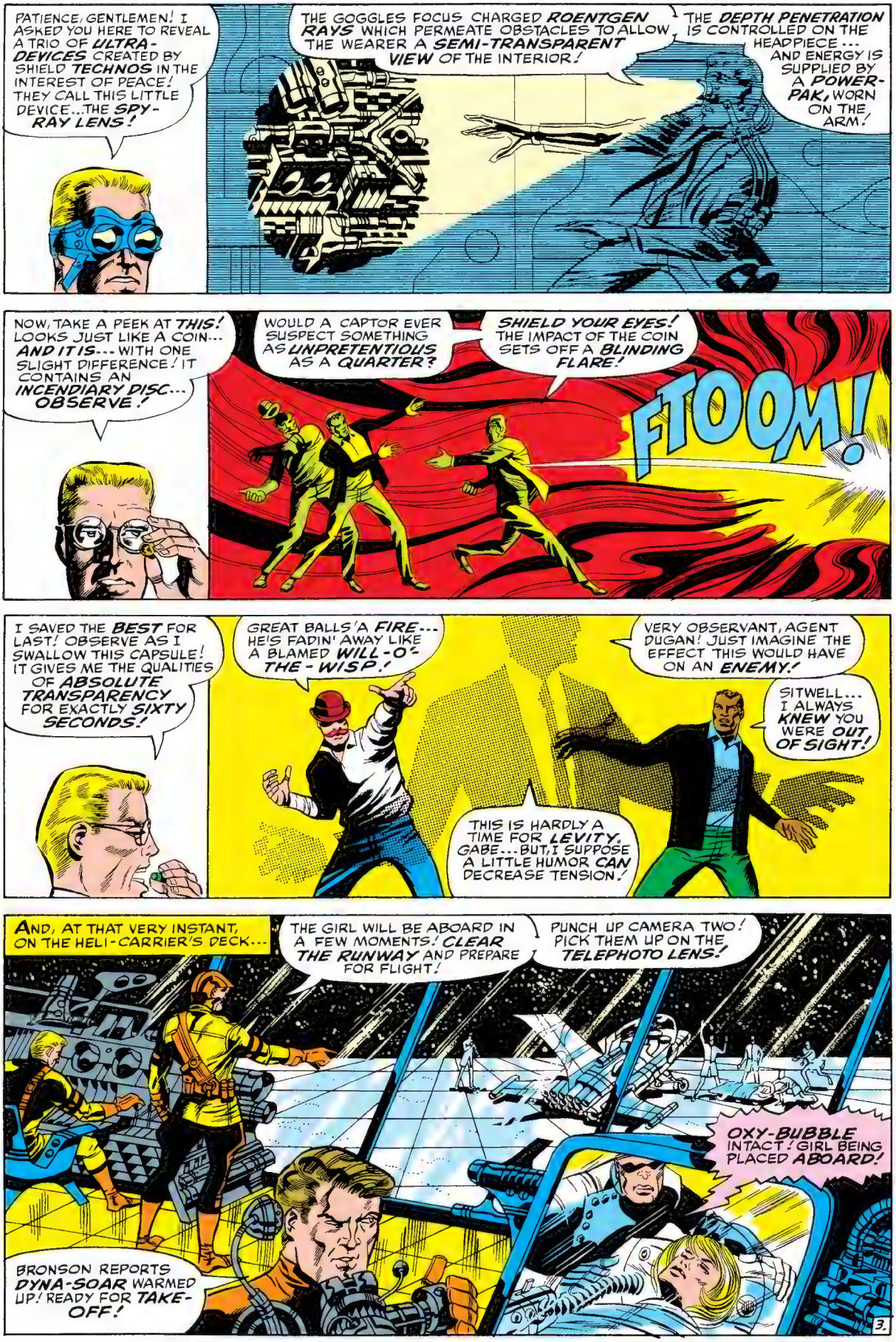
WITH FURY CONFINED TO QUARTERS FOR BUNGLING THE Q-RAY TEST AND ALLOWING AUTOFAC TO BE DESTROYED*, I WAS CHOSEN TO FLY THE INJURED GIRL TO SAFETY!
FOOLS, THEY PLAYED RIGHT INTO MY HANDS AS I, THE SUPREME HYDRA, KNEW THEY WOULD! AND, AS A RESULT, MY VENGEANCE WILL SOON BE COMPLETE!
*YA SAW IT... WOULDJA BELIEVE LAST ISH?... SURE-AS-SITWELL STAN!

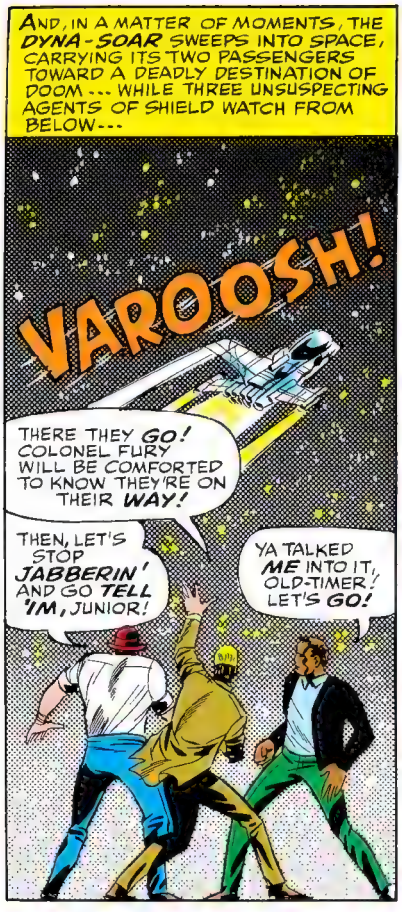
ONLY A GENIUS SUCH AS I COULD HAVE CONCEIVED SUCH AN INCREDIBLE MASTER SCHEME OF SUB-VERSION AND SABOTAGE! AND, ONLY I CAN DELIVER TO THE WORLD WHAT SHALL COME TO BE KNOWN AS...
THE PARABLE OF DOOM!

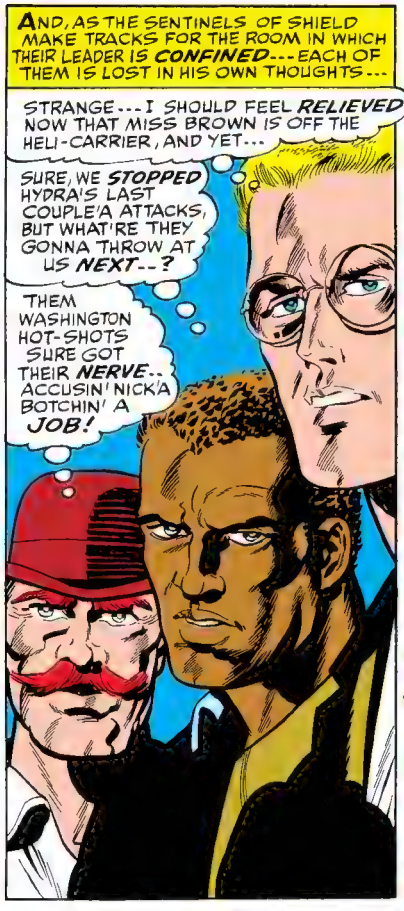
MEANWHILE, IN THE HELI-CARRIER'S DEVASTATED MEDICAL CENTER...
THERE IS NOTHING MORE WE CAN DO FOR HER! THE BLAST WHICH DESTROYED AUTOFAC AND INJURED HER, ALSO RUINED MOST OF OUR MEDICAL EQUIPMENT!
BUT, IF IT'S TRUE THAT SHE IS INDEED THE SUPREME HYDRA ...AS AUTOFAC STATED...
NO..OUR DUTY IS TO SAVE LIVES...NOT TO JUDGE THEM!


WHETHER SHE LIVES OR DIES NOW RESTS IN THE HANDS OF AGENT BRONSON!
FOR, UNLESS SHE RECEIVES TREATMENT IMMEDIATELY, THERE IS NO HOPE FOR HER... NO HOPE AT ALL...
AS IT IS, IT WILL TAKE A MEDICAL MIRACLE TO SAVE HER! SO, WE MUST PREPARE HER FOR IMMEDIATE DEPARTURE!

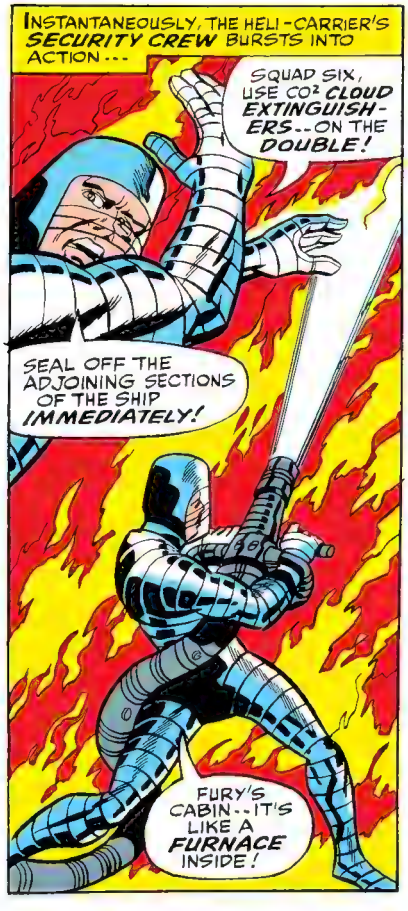
AND, IN ANOTHER SECTION OF THE CRIPPLED HELI-CARRIER...
GENTLEMEN...THOUGH THIS IS INDEED A GRAVE MOMENT, I BELIEVE WE MUST DO OUR BEST TO CARRY ON IN A MANNER BEFITTING LOYAL AGENTS OF SHIELD!
YOU PUTTIN' US ON, JASP?
YA MEAN, YOU CALLED US ALL'A WAY FROM FURY'S ROOM JUST TO MAKE A CORNBALL SPEECH? WHY, I OUGHTA...


PATIENCE, GENTLEMEN! I ASKED YOU HERE TO REVEAL A TRIO OF ULTRA-DEVICES CREATED BY SHIELD TECHNOS IN THE INTEREST OF PEACE! THEY CALL THIS LITTLE DEVICE...THE SPY-RAY LENS!
THE GOGGLES FOCUS CHARGED ROENTGEN RAYS WHICH PERMEATE OBSTACLES TO ALLOW THE WEARER A SEMI-TRANSPARENT VIEW OF THE INTERIOR!
THE DEPTH PENETRATION IS CONTROLLED ON THE HEADPIECE... AND ENERGY IS SUPPLIED BY A POWER-PAK, WORN ON THE ARM!
NOW, TAKE A PEEK AT THIS! LOOKS JUST LIKE A COIN... AND IT IS... WITH ONE SLIGHT DIFFERENCE! IT CONTAINS AN INCENDIARY DISC... OBSERVE!
WOULD A CAPTOR EVER SUSPECT SOMETHING AS UNPRETENTIOUS AS A QUARTER?
SHIELD YOUR EYES! THE IMPACT OF THE COIN SETS OFF A BLINDING FLARE!
FTOOM!
I SAVED THE BEST FOR LAST! OBSERVE AS I SWALLOW THIS CAPSULE! IT GIVES ME THE QUALITIES OF ABSOLUTE TRANSPARENCY FOR EXACTLY SIXTY SECONDS!
GREAT BALLS 'A FIRE... HE'S FADIN' AWAY LIKE A BLAMED WILL-O'-THE-WISP!
VERY OBSERVANT, AGENT DUGAN! JUST IMAGINE THE EFFECT THIS WOULD HAVE ON AN ENEMY!
SITWELL... I ALWAYS KNEW YOU WERE OUT OF SIGHT!
THIS IS HARDLY A TIME FOR LEVITY, GABE... BUT, I SUPPOSE A LITTLE HUMOR CAN DECREASE TENSION!
AND, AT THAT VERY INSTANT, ON THE HELI-CARRIER'S DECK...
THE GIRL WILL BE ABOARD IN A FEW MOMENTS! CLEAR THE RUNWAY AND PREPARE FOR FLIGHT!
PUNCH UP CAMERA TWO! PICK THEM UP ON THE TELEPHOTO LENS!
OXY-BUBBLE INTACT! GIRL BEING PLACED ABOARD!
BRONSON REPORTS DYNA-SOAR WARMED UP! READY FOR TAKE-OFF!


AND, IN A MATTER OF MOMENTS, THE DYNA-SOAR SWEEPS INTO SPACE, CARRYING ITS TWO PASSENGERS TOWARD A DEADLY DESTINATION OF DOOM --- WHILE THREE UNSUSPECTING AGENTS OF SHIELD WATCH FROM BELOW---
VAROOSH!
THERE THEY GO! COLONEL FURY WILL BE COMFORTED TO KNOW THEY'RE ON THEIR WAY!
THEN, LET'S STOP JABBERIN' AND GO TELL 'IM, JUNIOR!
YA TALKED ME INTO IT, OLD-TIMER! LET'S GO!


AND, AS THE SENTINELS OF SHIELD MAKE TRACKS FOR THE ROOM IN WHICH THEIR LEADER IS CONFINED--- EACH OF THEM IS LOST IN HIS OWN THOUGHTS---
STRANGE--- I SHOULD FEEL RELIEVED NOW THAT MISS BROWN IS OFF THE HELI-CARRIER, AND YET...
SURE, WE STOPPED HYDRA'S LAST COUPLE'A ATTACKS, BUT WHAT'RE THEY GONNA THROW AT US NEXT--?
THEM WASHINGTON HOT-SHOTS SURE GOT THEIR NERVE.. ACCUSIN' NICK'A BOTCHIN' A JOB!

SUDDENLY, AS THE SILENT AGENTS NEAR THEIR DESTINATION, THE VERY PROXIMITY OF NICK FURY'S QUARTERS ERUPTS IN A PAROXYSM OF FIERY VEHEMENCE ---
RAKKOOM!


INSTANTANEOUSLY, THE HELI-CARRIER'S SECURITY CREW BURSTS INTO ACTION ---
SQUAD SIX, USE CO² CLOUD EXTINGUISHERS--ON THE DOUBLE!
SEAL OFF THE ADJOINING SECTIONS OF THE SHIP IMMEDIATELY!
FURY'S CABIN--IT'S LIKE A FURNACE INSIDE!

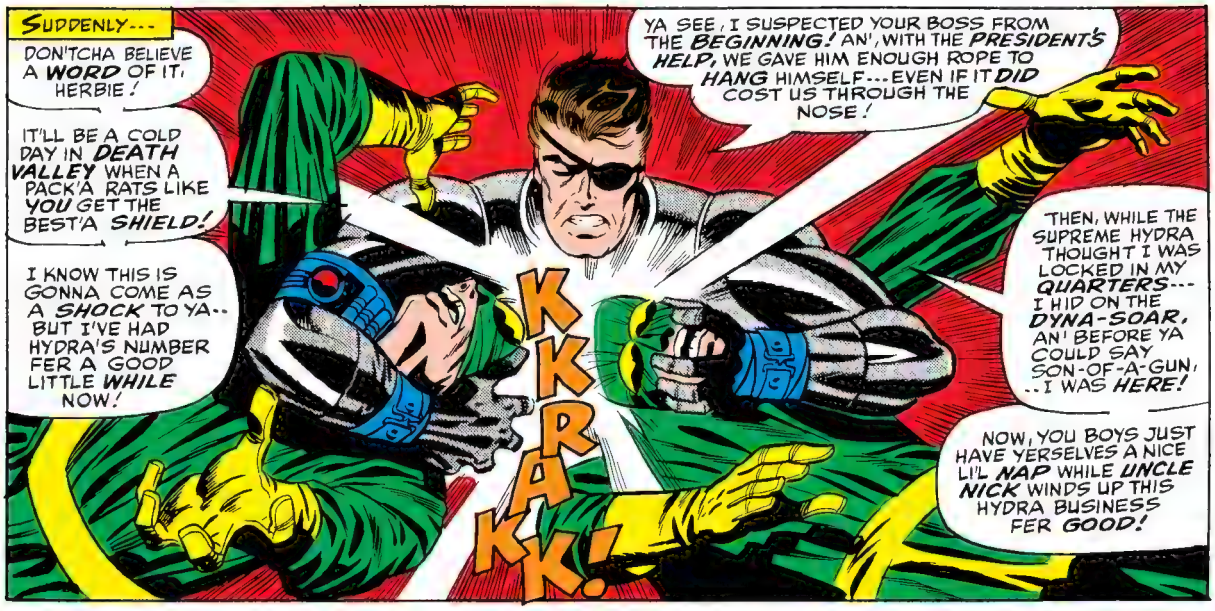
THE FIRE'S SPREADING TO THE ENGINE ROOMS! DAMAGE WILL BE IMMEASURABLE! WHAT COULD HAVE CAUSED AN INFERNO LIKE THIS?
JUST FOUND THE ANSWER, SIR! IT'S SOME KINDA DELAYED, BLIND-IMPULSE ARSON BOMB!
DROP THE SHIP TO A LOWER ALTITUDE! WE MAY HAVE TO DOCK FOR REPAIRS!

THEN, THREE STUNNED AGENTS ARRIVE ON THE SCENE, AND---
WAIT! DON'T GO IN, EITHER OF YA! EVERYTHING IN THE ROOM IS CHARRED TO A CINDER! NOTHIN' LEFT BUT A HANDFUL OF BLACK ASHES!
COLONEL FURY! HE.. HE COULDN'T HAVE HAD A CHANCE!
NO! MAYBE HE ESCAPED IN TIME!
SURE--- JUST LIKE YA COULD ESCAPE AN ATOM BOMB! HE'S GONE--- DO YA HEAR ME? NICK FURY IS DEAD!

MEANWHILE, SINISTER SUPREME HYDRA, IN THE GUISE OF SHIELD AGENT BRONSON, HAS ALTERED THE DYNA-SOAR'S COURSE FOR A SYNTHETIC ATOLL SOMEWHERE IN THE PACIFIC--- AN UNBELIEVABLE COMPLEX OF TOWERING SPIRES AND INCREDIBLE MACHINES---A METROPOLIS OF EVIL KNOWN ONLY AS---
HYDRA ISLAND!
THERE IT STANDS! A FORTRESS OF INCONCEIVABLE STRENGTH AND RESOURCES--- THE CITADEL OF HYDRA-- AND ULTIMATE MASTER-WORK OF MY GENIUS!
FROM THIS FORTRESS--- I SHALL RULE MANKIND! AND, NONE SHALL BE ABLE TO CHALLENGE ME!
...FOR MY CAPITAL IS ENCLOSED IN AN IMPENETRABLE DOME THROUGH WHICH NONE BUT THE CHOSEN MAY ENTER!
BASE ONE TO UFO--- PHYSICAL VIBRATION ANALYZED AND ACCEPTED! IDENTIFY AT ONCE!
HYDRA BASE ONE...THIS IS THE SUPREME HYDRA! OPEN HYDRA-BUBBLE TO PERMIT ENTRY!
PREPARE LANDING STRIP FOR IMMEDIATE ARRIVAL! HAVE HYDRA MEDICS STAND BY!
YOUR ORDERS HAVE BEEN ANTICIPATED AND CARRIED OUT, EXCELLENCY! HAIL HYDRA!

MOMENTS LATER---
MY MASTER PLAN HAS WORKED TO PERFECTION!
THOSE FOOLS THOUGHT THE GIRL WAS ILL--BUT, SHE IS ACTUALLY UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF... THE DEATH-SLEEP!
AND NOW, GIVE HER THE ANTIDOTE -- AND PREPARE HER FOR...THE TRIBUNAL!
HAIL HYDRA!
IT WILL BE DONE AT ONCE, SUPREME ONE!

AND INSIDE THE SHIP...
HIS SCHEME TO DEFEAT SHIELD HAS SUCCEEDED JUST AS THE SUPREME HYDRA PREDICTED!
OF COURSE! IS THAT NOT WHY HE ALONE IS SUPREME? HE HAS LEFT NOT THE FAINTEST MARGIN FOR ERROR!

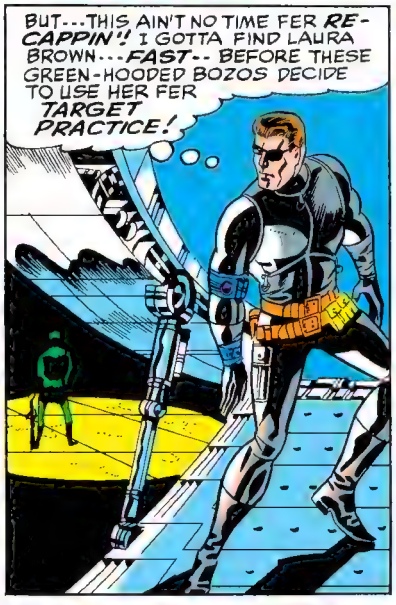

SUDDENLY---
DON'TCHA BELIEVE A WORD OF IT, HERBIE!
IT'LL BE A COLD DAY IN DEATH VALLEY WHEN A PACK'A RATS LIKE YOU GET THE BEST'A SHIELD!
I KNOW THIS IS GONNA COME AS A SHOCK TO YA-- BUT I'VE HAD HYDRA'S NUMBER FER A GOOD LITTLE WHILE NOW!
YA SEE, I SUSPECTED YOUR BOSS FROM THE BEGINNING! AN', WITH THE PRESIDENT'S HELP, WE GAVE HIM ENOUGH ROPE TO HANG HIMSELF--- EVEN IF IT DID COST US THROUGH THE NOSE!
KKRAKK!
THEN, WHILE THE SUPREME HYDRA THOUGHT I WAS LOCKED IN MY QUARTERS--- I HID ON THE DYNA-SOAR, AN' BEFORE YA COULD SAY SON-OF-A-GUN, --I WAS HERE!
NOW, YOU BOYS JUST HAVE YERSELVES A NICE LI'L NAP WHILE UNCLE NICK WINDS UP THIS HYDRA BUSINESS FER GOOD!

SOMETHIN' TURNED ME ON TO BRONSON A WHILE BACK---MUSTA BEEN A KIND OF SIXTH SENSE!* THEN, HE SLIPPED UP BY CALLIN' THE DREADNOUGHT BY NAME** ---BEFORE I'D EVER EVEN MENTIONED IT TO ANYBODY!
WHEN THAT HAPPENED, I GOT JUST SUSPICIOUS ENOUGH TO CHECK HIS RETINAL EYE PATTERNS AGAINST THOSE OF THE REAL BRONSON--- AND THAT WAS THE CLINCHER!

*STRANGE TALES #153, PAGE 11, PANEL 2.

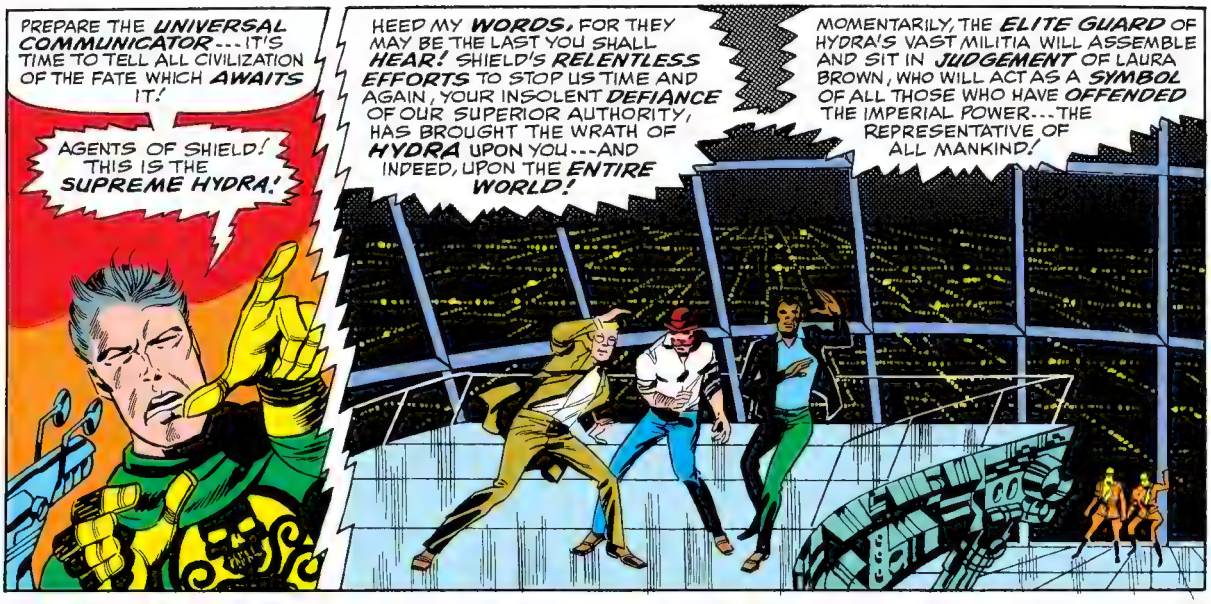
*STRANGE TALES #154, PAGE 12, PANEL 1..

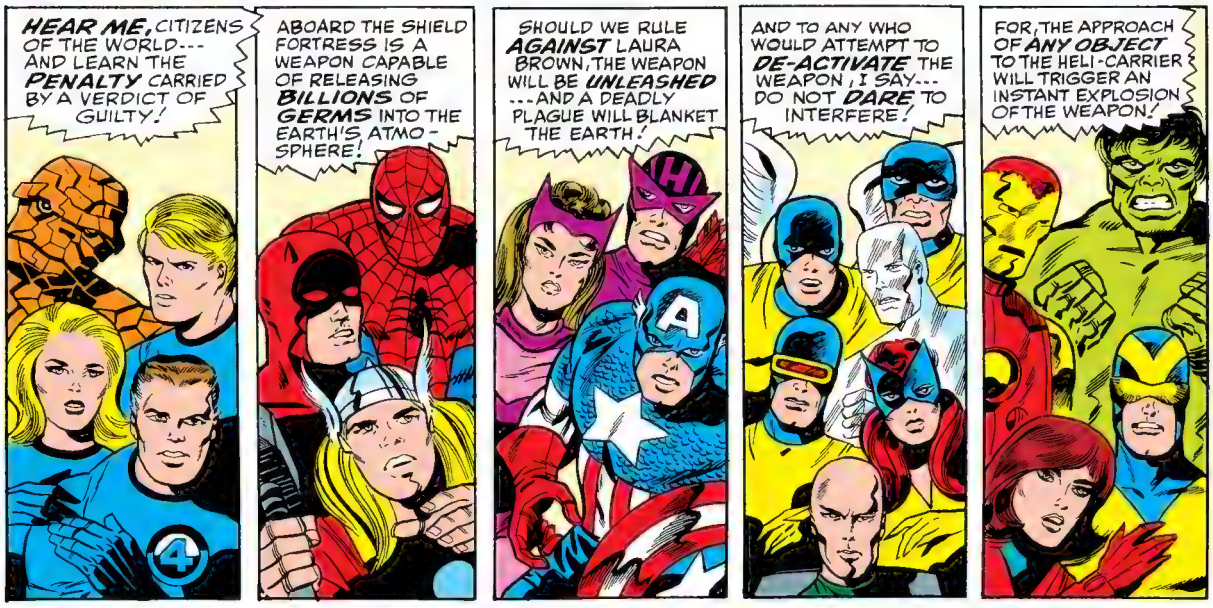
...CLUES DETECTED AND RESEARCHED BY OL' SHERLOCK STAN---JUST SO YOU UNDERSTAND THAT WE AREN'T KIDDIN'!

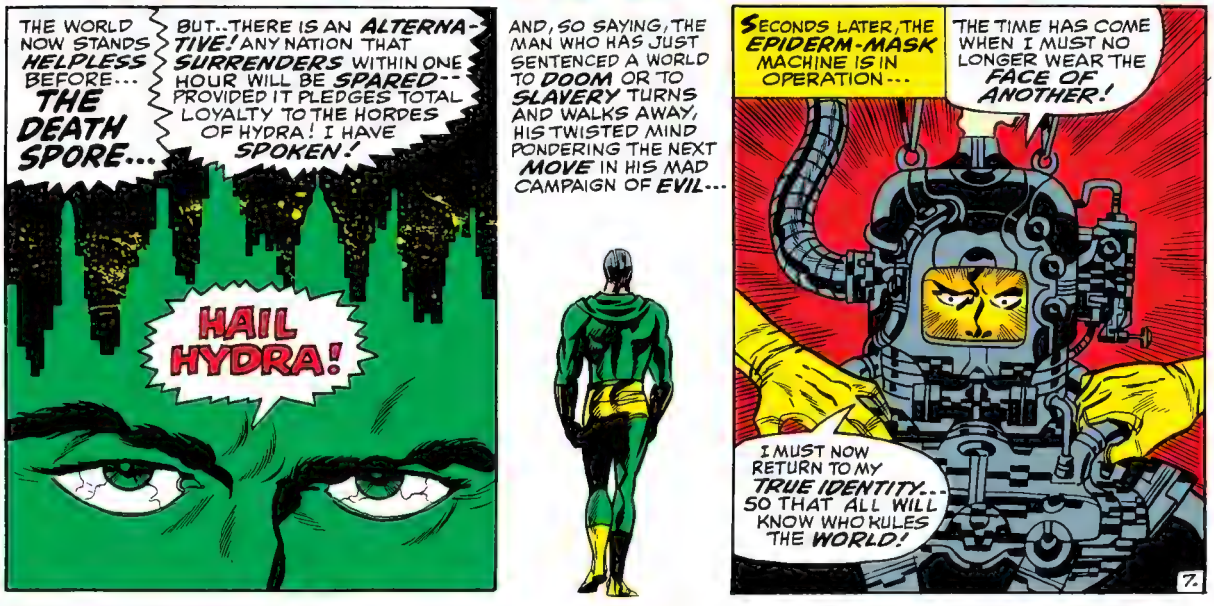

BUT---THIS AIN'T NO TIME FER RE-CAPPIN'! I GOTTA FIND LAURA BROWN---FAST-- BEFORE THESE GREEN-HOODED BOZOS DECIDE TO USE HER FER TARGET PRACTICE!

MEANWHILE, IN THE INNER SANCTUM OF HYDRA'S VAST COMPLEX---
IT WILL BE A PLEASURE TO ONCE AGAIN DON THE GARB OF THE SUPREME HYDRA! TOO LONG HAVE I BEEN AWAY FROM THE SECRET REALM I HAVE CREATED HERE!
AND, TOO LONG HAVE I WAITED FOR THE MOMENT BEFORE ME!
READY THE TELE-STUDIO!

MINIONS OF HYDRA! HEED THE WORDS OF THE SUPREME ONE! THE MOMENT OF OUR ULTIMATE DESTINY IS AT HAND!
FOR, EVEN AS I SPEAK TO YOU, THE DEATH KNELL TOLLS FOR SHIELD!
EXACTLY 30 MINUTES AGO, THE ACCURSED NICK FURY DIED IN AN EXPLOSION ABOARD SHIELD'S HELI-CARRIER!
I MYSELF PLANTED THE CHARGE WHICH HAS LEFT OUR MOST DEADLY FOES LEADERLESS! THUS, TODAY FALLS SHIELD---AND TOMORROW.. THE WORLD!
HAIL HYDRA!


PREPARE THE UNIVERSAL COMMUNICATOR---IT'S TIME TO TELL ALL CIVILIZATION OF THE FATE WHICH AWAITS IT!
AGENTS OF SHIELD! THIS IS THE SUPREME HYDRA!
HEED MY WORDS, FOR THEY MAY BE THE LAST YOU SHALL HEAR! SHIELD'S RELENTLESS EFFORTS TO STOP US TIME AND AGAIN, YOUR INSOLENT DEFIANCE OF OUR SUPERIOR AUTHORITY, HAS BROUGHT THE WRATH OF HYDRA UPON YOU---AND INDEED, UPON THE ENTIRE WORLD!
MOMENTARILY, THE ELITE GUARD OF HYDRA'S VAST MILITIA WILL ASSEMBLE AND SIT IN JUDGEMENT OF LAURA BROWN, WHO WILL ACT AS A SYMBOL OF ALL THOSE WHO HAVE OFFENDED THE IMPERIAL POWER---THE REPRESENTATIVE OF ALL MANKIND!


HEAR ME, CITIZENS OF THE WORLD--- AND LEARN THE PENALTY CARRIED BY A VERDICT OF GUILTY!
ABOARD THE SHIELD FORTRESS IS A WEAPON CAPABLE OF RELEASING BILLIONS OF GERMS INTO THE EARTH'S ATMO-SPHERE!
SHOULD WE RULE AGAINST LAURA BROWN, THE WEAPON WILL BE UNLEASHED ---AND A DEADLY PLAGUE WILL BLANKET THE EARTH!
AND TO ANY WHO WOULD ATTEMPT TO DE-ACTIVATE THE WEAPON, I SAY--- DO NOT DARE TO INTERFERE!
FOR, THE APPROACH OF ANY OBJECT TO THE HELI-CARRIER WILL TRIGGER AN INSTANT EXPLOSION OF THE WEAPON!

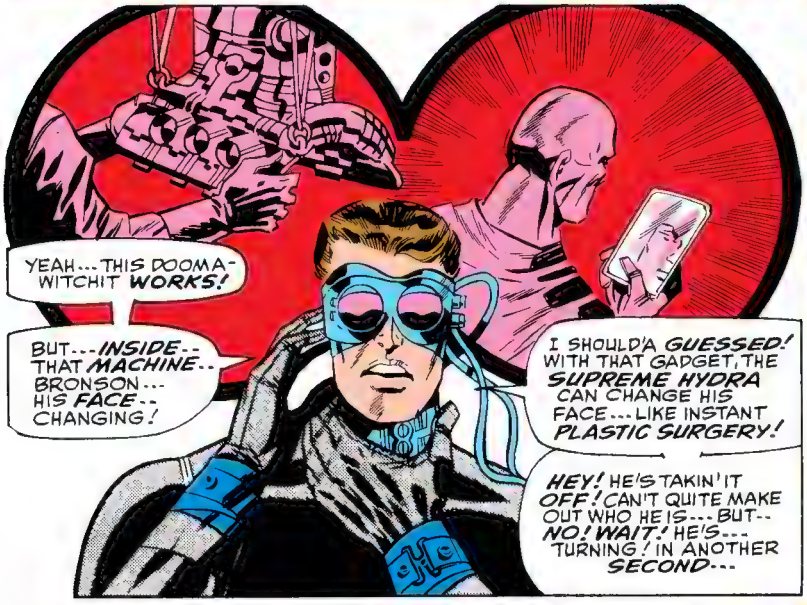

THE WORLD NOW STANDS HELPLESS BEFORE--- THE DEATH SPORE...
BUT--THERE IS AN ALTERNA-TIVE! ANY NATION THAT SURRENDERS WITHIN ONE HOUR WILL BE SPARED--- PROVIDED IT PLEDGES TOTAL LOYALTY TO THE HORDES OF HYDRA! I HAVE SPOKEN!
HAIL HYDRA!
AND, SO SAYING, THE MAN WHO HAS JUST SENTENCED A WORLD TO DOOM OR TO SLAVERY TURNS AND WALKS AWAY, HIS TWISTED MIND PONDERING THE NEXT MOVE IN HIS MAD CAMPAIGN OF EVIL---
SECONDS LATER, THE EPIDERM-MASK MACHINE IS IN OPERATION---
THE TIME HAS COME WHEN I MUST NO LONGER WEAR THE FACE OF ANOTHER!
I MUST NOW RETURN TO MY TRUE IDENTITY... SO THAT ALL WILL KNOW WHO RULES THE WORLD!

MEANWHILE, THE SHIELD RAMROD HAS STALKED FROM THE SHADOWS UNTIL HE FINDS HIMSELF IN THE INNER DOMINION OF HYDRA ISLAND--A MULTIPLICITY OF LOFTY, TAPERING SPIRES AND TENUOUS CONICAL NEEDLES! A COLOSSUS OF STEEPLES AND PYRAMIDS, OF TURRETS, DOMES, AND OBELISKS---LIKE TOWERING EVIL FINGERS OF STEEL AND GLASS, REACHING UPWARD AS THOUGH TO BLOT OUT THE VERY STARS ABOVE!
WHO'D BELIEVE A SET-UP LIKE THIS? IF I DIDN'T SEE IT WITH MY OWN EYE---IT'S EVEN HIDDEN FROM AERIAL VIEW BY THAT BLAMED BUBBLE THAT REFLECTS THE WATER!
NO WONDER NOBODY EVER FOUND THIS BLASTED PLACE! THEY CAN PROBABLY MOVE IT, TOO---SO'S IT CAN'T EVEN BE DETECTED ACCIDENTALLY!
BUT, THIS AIN'T NO TIME TO BECOME A BUG ON EVASION TACTICS! I GOT A MISSION TO TAKE CARE OF... AND THERE AIN'T MUCH TIME TO DO IT IN!
=UH OH!= SOMETHIN' TELLS ME ALL'A THEM HYDRA JOY-BOYS DOWN THERE AIN'T GATHERIN' FOR NO SUNDAY SOCIAL! IT MUST MEAN THE HEAD CHEESE --AND LAURA --AIN'T VERY FAR AWAY!

THEN, MOVING WITH THE SILENT STEALTH OF A PANTHER STALKING ITS PREY, NICK FURY CLOSES IN---AND STRIKES...
GOTTA TAKE THIS CREEP OUT, BEFORE HE ALERTS THE WHOLE BLAMED DIVISION...
HEY! HIS RIFLE... FALLING OUTTA REACH--CAN'T STOP IT!
ONLY ONE THING TA DO NOW--AN' THAT'S TO TAKE ON THE WHOLE CREW OF 'EM!
ODDS ARE A LITTLE ONE-SIDED..GOTTA HIT 'EM LIKE A PILE-DRIVER!
KA RAAM!
9.

IT'S FURY! HERE ON---HYDRA ISL---UGGGH!
AT LAST! WE'VE GOT HIM RIGHT WHERE---OOOFF!
DON'T LET HIM---ARRRGHH!

THAT DOES IT! YOU JOKERS MUSTA TOOK YOUR BOXIN' LESSONS FROM MICKEY MOUSE!
I GOT ME A HUNCH THIS LITTLE RUCKUS AIN'T GONNA WIN YA NO FITNESS MEDALS!
NOW THAT THOSE BOZOS ARE OUTTA THE WAY---I'LL SEE IF I CAN SPOT LAURA WITH OUR NEW SPY-RAY GIZMO!


YEAH---THIS DOOMA-WITCHIT WORKS!
BUT---INSIDE--THAT MACHINE--BRONSON---HIS FACE--CHANGING!
I SHOULD'A GUESSED! WITH THAT GADGET, THE SUPREME HYDRA CAN CHANGE HIS FACE---LIKE INSTANT PLASTIC SURGERY!
HEY! HE'S TAKIN' IT OFF! CAN'T QUITE MAKE OUT WHO HE IS---BUT--NO! WAIT! HE'S---TURNING! IN ANOTHER SECOND---

BUT, AT THAT PRECISE INSTANT---
CRAK!

HYDRA GUARD CALLING IMPERIAL QUARTERS! NICK FURY RENDERED UNCONSCIOUS BY STUN-PISTOL ON THIRD LEVEL ESPLANADE! INSTRUCT AT ONCE!
TAKE HIM TO THE TRIBUNAL--! IMMEDIATELY!

FURY---HERE? BUT I THOUGHT--! IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE! HIS FATE IS SEALED!
TAKE HIM BEFORE THE TRIBUNAL--ALONG WITH THE TRAITOROUS FEMALE!
THIS MAKES OUR VICTORY ALL THE SWEETER! HAIL HYDRA!

MINUTES PASS...THEN FURY WAKES, AWE-STRICKEN BY THE UNBELIEVABLE SIGHT BEFORE HIM---
10.

BARON STRUCKER!

YES, NICK FURY, WE MEET *AGAIN*, AFTER THESE *MANY YEARS!* HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN? OVER TWENTY YEARS?--EXACTLY *24 YEARS!*

YOU AND THE CURSED AMERICANS WON THE *FIRST BATTLE!* NOW, WE WAGE *ANOTHER* WAR! A WAR BETWEEN THE LEGIONS OF *HYDRA* AND THE ENTIRE *FREE WORLD!*

THIS TIME, HOWEVER, IT IS *I* WHO SHALL EMERGE AS THE VICTOR! I, *BARON STRUCKER*, FORMER COMMANDER OF THE NAZI *BLITZKRIEG SQUADRON!*

BUT, *ENOUGH* OF THIS! THE TIME HAS COME FOR YOU TO STAND BEFORE THE *TRIBUNAL*, AND BE *JUDGED* FOR YOUR MANY AND VARIED *CRIMES* AGAINST HYDRA!

YOUR *RECORD* SPEAKS FOR ITSELF---THE EVIDENCE IS *UNDENIABLE!* NICHOLAS FURY, I CHARGE THE JURY TO NOW BRING FORWARD A *VERDICT!*

HOW *SAY* YOU, MEN OF HYDRA--- *GUILTY OR INNOCENT?*

*GUILTY!!*



THEN, I SENTENCE THE PRISONER TO *DEATH* BY ALPHA *PARTICLE EXPOSURE!*

AND, I FURTHER DECREE THAT HIS BODY BE USED AS A *MODEL* FOR AN ARMY OF *HYDRA ANDROIDS* WITH WHICH WE SHALL POLICE THE EARTH! THAT SHALL BE THE *SUPREME IRONY!*

IN ANOTHER *SECOND*, I WILL PRESS THIS LEVER WHICH ACTIVATES THE *ALPHA-TRON!* THIS, IN TURN, SHALL CAUSE A SIXTY-MINUTE-DELAYED DETONATION OF THE *DEATH SPORE* IN THE BELLY OF THE HELI-CARRIER! ONLY *WE* SHALL BE SAFE... WITHIN OUR *PROTECTIVE DOME!*

HYDRA WILL RULE THE WORLD.. AND *I* AM *HYDRA!*

*HAIL HYDRA!*

*CLICK!*

*NEXT: "SHOWDOWN!"*

STRANGE TALES
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
NICK FURY, AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D.™
DOCTOR STRANGE™
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
12¢ IND.
157 JUN.
CRISIS!
STERANKO

# NICK FURY, AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D.!

## SUPREME HEADQUARTERS INTERNATIONAL ESPIONAGE LAW-ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

*NICK FURY* HAS FINALLY COME FACE-TO-FACE WITH THE *SUPREME HYDRA*, HIS DIABOLIC ARCH-ENEMY FROM WORLD WAR II, MERCILESS *BARON VON STRUCKER!* BUT, THE SHIELD RAMROD HAS BEEN CAPTURED...AND, AFTER A MOCK TRIAL BEFORE THE *TRIBUNAL OF TREACHERY*, HAS BEEN CONDEMNED FOR HIS RELENTLESS CRUSADE AGAINST THE MONSTER HORDES OF *HYDRA!* AS FURY LIES HELPLESSLY STRAPPED IN A MONSTROUS *KILLER-MACHINE*, THE VENGEFUL STRUCKER RELEASES A CORUSCATING TEMPEST OF *DEADLY ALPHA RAYS!* NOW, *NICK FURY*, THE *WORLD*, AND *YOU*, FRANTIC ONE, ARE ABOUT TO FACE THE ULTIMATE...

# "CRISIS!"

*NOW*...WITNESS BEFORE YOU OUR INEVITABLE TRIUMPH...*THE EXECUTION OF NICK FURY!* NOT EVEN THE INDESTRUCTIBLE AGENT OF *SHIELD* CAN LIVE TO DEFY THE *WRATH OF HYDRA!*

EDITED BY
STAN LEE...
*THE OVERLORD!*

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY
JIM STERANKO...
*THE OVERSEER!*

LETTERED BY
SAM ROSEN...
*THE OVERWORKED!*

HEAR ME, MEN OF HYDRA! OUR MASTER PLAN OF DOOM HAS SUCCEEDED! OUR DYNASTY OF WORLD DOMINATION HAS BEGUN! HYDRA MUST RULE... HYDRA WILL RULE... FOR HYDRA IS IMMORTAL!
AND ONLY I, BARON WOLFGANG VON STRUCKER, COULD HAVE BEEN THE ARCHITECT OF SUCH A NEFARIOUS SCHEME TO DESTROY THE FREE WORLD!
A PLAN OF REVENGE, RETALIATION AND SUDDEN DEATH TO ALL WHO OPPOSE THE IMPERIAL RULE OF HYDRA!
EVEN NOW, AS HYDRA CASTS ITS MENACING SHADOW OVER THE WORLD, THE ORGANIZATION KNOWN AS SHIELD NEARS ITS END!
AND, BEHIND ME LIES THE LIFELESS BODY OF NICK FURY... WHICH WILL BE USED AS A MODEL FOR AN INVINCIBLE ARMY OF HYDRA ANDROIDS!
NO LONGER MUST WE REMAIN A SECRET SOCIETY DEDICATED TO WORLD CONTROL! ...IT IS OURS FOR THE TAKING!

ONLY MINUTES REMAIN BEFORE THE DEVICE I'VE HIDDEN IN SHIELD'S HELI-CARRIER EXPLODES! AND IN SO DOING, IT WILL RAIN BILLIONS OF DEADLY GERMS ON THE CITIES OF OUR ENEMIES... WHILE WE REMAIN WITHIN THE SAFETY OF OUR IMPREGNABLE DOME!
NOTHING CAN STOP US NOW! FOR, AS YOU KNOW, THE DEATH SPORE CANNOT BE DE-ACTIVATED! WE HAVE WON THE FINAL VICTORY!
NOW, TURN OFF THE ALPHA RAY BOMBARDMENT, SO THAT ALL MAY SEE THE FATE OF THE ENEMIES OF HYDRA!

THEN, AS ALL EYES FOCUS ON THE FANTASTIC ALPHA-TRON PLATFORM, A GASP OF ASTONISHMENT SWEEPS OVER THE COUNCIL ROOM, FOR THEY SEE... NOTHING!
HE--HE'S GONE! FURY'S ESCAPED!!

AND, AT THAT VERY INSTANT, ABOARD SHIELD'S *AIRBORNE ARSENAL*, THE VANGUARD OF AMERICA'S FREEDOM FIGHTERS ARE CONFRONTED BY THE INCREDIBLE DANGER OF THE *MOST POWERFUL WEAPON* THEY HAVE YET ENCOUNTERED---

DAMAGE REPORT FROM ENGINE ROOM.. *ATOMIC GENERATORS* STILL *NOT* FULLY OPERATIONAL!

*FIRE DEVASTATION* TOO GREAT*--- REPAIRS COULD TAKE A *WEEK* OR MORE!

*YOU BETTER *BELIEVE* IT..EVEN IF YOU MISSED OUR LAST ISH!--STERN STAN.

CONTROL ROOM REPORT! SHIP REMAINS IN *LOWER STRATO-SPHERE! UNABLE* TO GAIN ALTITUDE EVEN WITH *EMERGENCY POWER* CUT IN!

*VORTEX BEAM* MIGHT FURNISH MAXIMUM ADDITIONAL BOOST OF 1200 METERS!

*ORBIT TRAJECTORY* STILL CONSTANT--- COURSE *47-G-119* FOR WASTELANDS AT THE SOUTHERN *POLAR ICE CAP!* AWAIT FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS!

MEANWHILE, IN ANOTHER SECTION OF THE MULTI-LEVEL CRAFT, AGENT *JASPER SITWELL*...

*HAVE TO FIND THAT BOMB*... EVEN IF THEY SAY IT CAN'T BE DEACTIVATED, WE CAN'T STOP TRYING! BUT FIRST, WE MUST *FIND* IT!

MAYBE IF I CONTACT SHIELD'S *ESP DIVISION*... MUST TRY EVERY POSSIBILITY!

COLONEL FURY ALWAYS HAD *FAITH* IN ME! I MUST LOCATE THE BOMB---FOR *HIM!*

BUT EVEN THE *EXTRAORDINARY MINDS* OF THOSE WHO SERVE THE CAUSE OF FREEDOM BY PROBING WITH *SHEER BRAIN POWER* WHAT IS OTHERWISE IMPENETRABLE*, *FAIL* TO FIND THE LOCATION OF THE INFERNAL DEATH SPORE---

*STARTLINGLY INTRODUCED IN THE HALCYON DAYS OF *STRANGE TALES #141!*... SENTIMENTAL STAN.

JONES! DUGAN! I'VE SET A COURSE FOR *ANTARCTICA!* IF THE BOMB IS DETONATED THERE, THE INTENSE COLD MAY *DESTROY* THE BACTERIA BEFORE THEY CAN RAVAGE THE CIVILIZED AREAS OF OUR PLANET! FOR US, OF COURSE, *THERE'S NO HOPE*...UNLESS WE FIND IT *NOW!*

BUT WE'VE SEARCHED THE SHIP ALREADY, MAN! IT'S JUST *NOT HERE!* MAYBE THEY'RE *BLUFFIN'!*

*YEAH!* WE COULD BE LOOKIN' RIGHT AT IT WITHOUT *KNOWIN'* IT! WE AIN'T GOT THE FOGGIEST NOTION OF WHAT IT *LOOKS* LIKE!

NEVERTHELESS, WE MUST CONTINUE SEARCHING UNTIL THE LAST *MOMENT!*

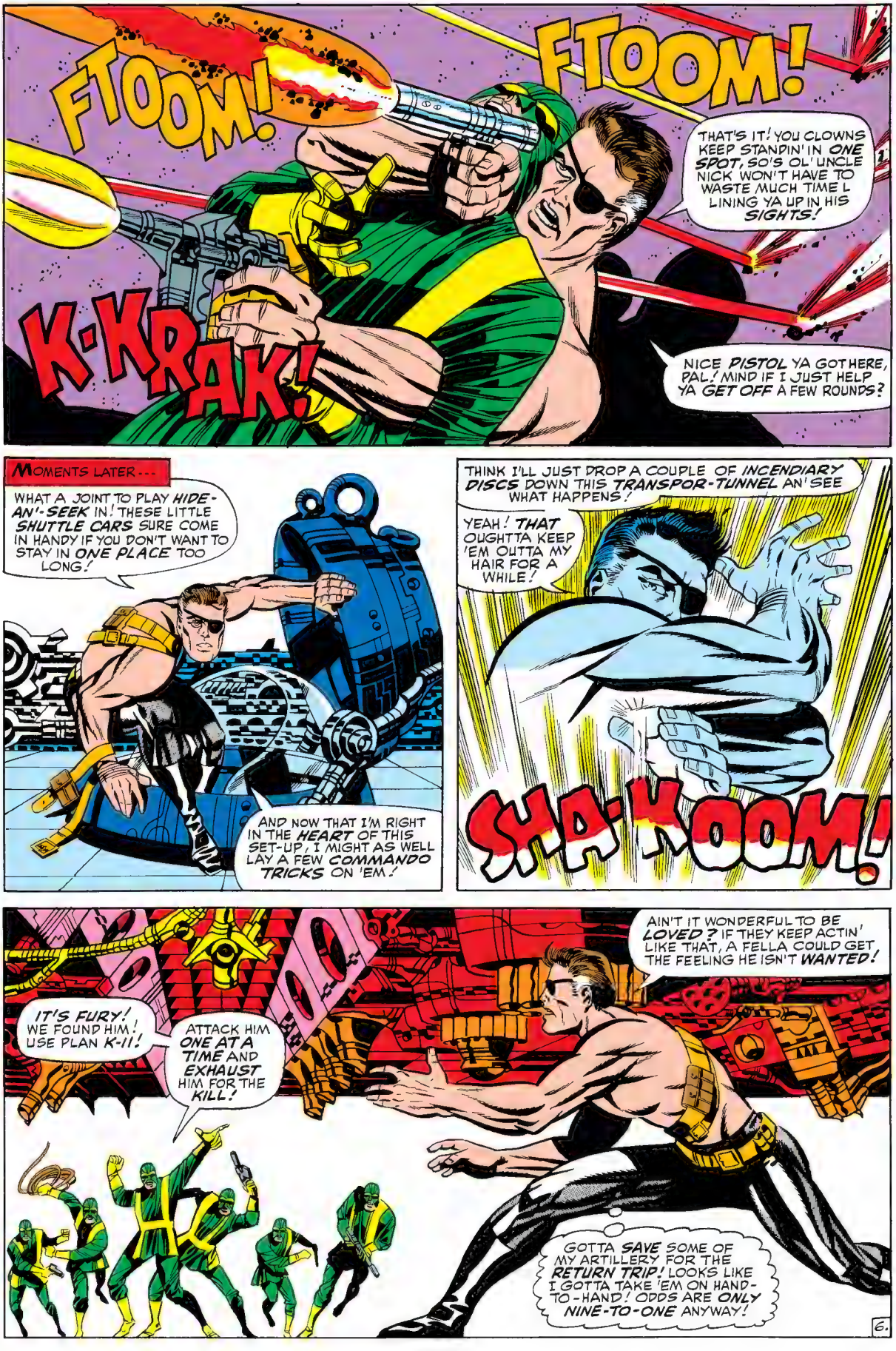
IF *ONLY* COLONEL FURY WERE STILL ALIVE! HE'D KNOW WHAT TO DO! WHY'D HE HAVE TO DIE IN THAT FIERY *BLAST?*

WHY COULDN'T IT HAVE BEEN *I*, INSTEAD? BUT, WE *MUST* CARRY ON---NO MATTER WHAT! *IT'S THE WAY HE'D HAVE DONE IT!*

MAYBE... MAYBE ONLY A *PRAYER* CAN HELP US NOW!

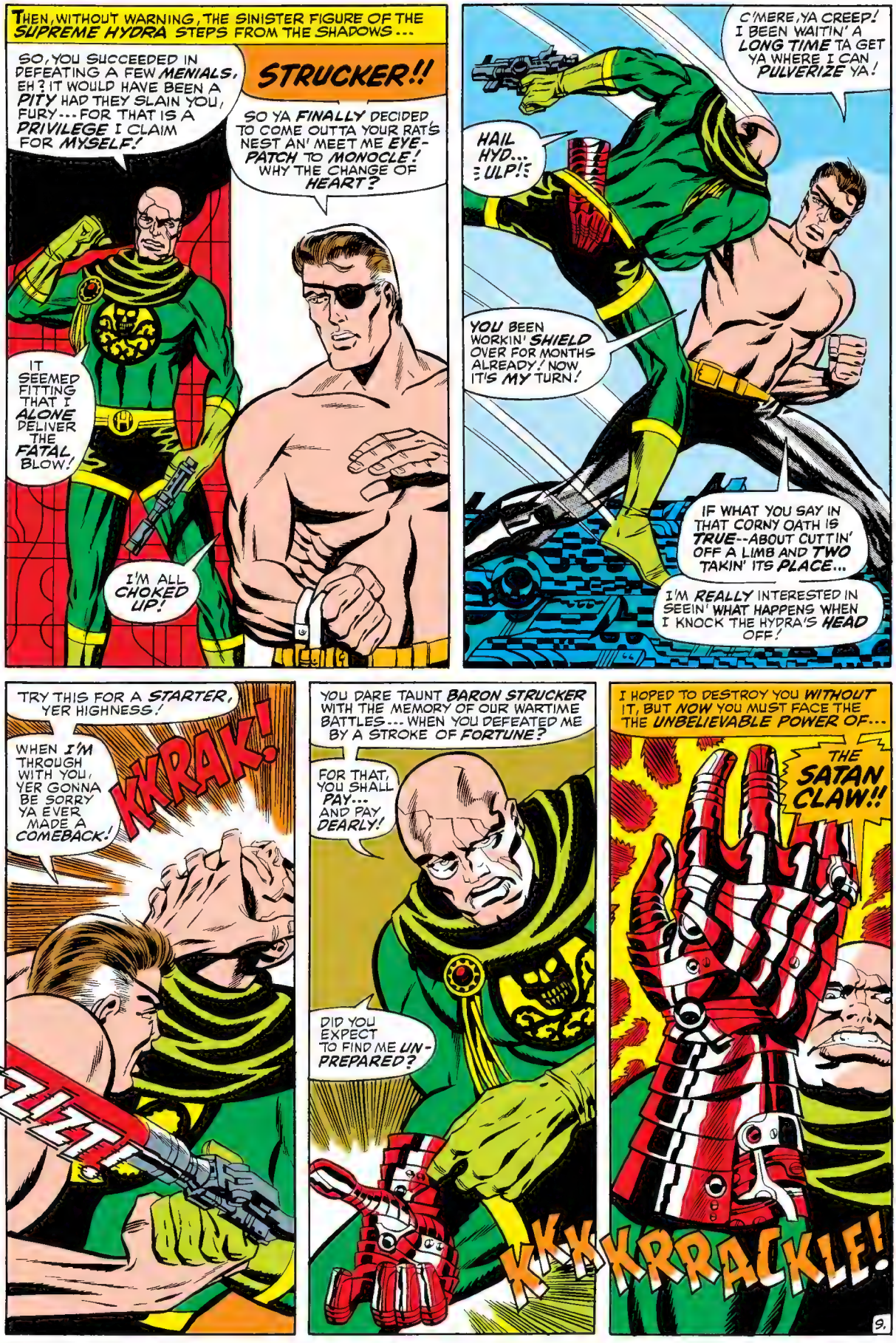
BUT, IN ACTUALITY, NICK FURY IS FAR LIVELIER THAN THE TORMENTED SITWELL SUSPECTS! FOR, AT THAT MOMENT, AT A CHECKPOINT ON HYDRA ISLAND...
52..53...54..55..
WHAT'S A MATTER, PAL?
=UGGHHH!=
..55..56..57..
HEY! WHAT'S HAPPEN...
=ARRGH!=
..58..59..60!
TSK! TSK! HATE TO TAKE UNFAIR ADVANTAGE, BUT THAT'S SHOW BIZ!
THAT SIXTY-SECOND INVISI-BILITY PILL* WAS JUST WHAT THE DOCTOR ORDERED!
*REMEMBER WHEN WE INTRODUCED IT LAST ISH? BETCHA KNEW IT ALL THE TIME! ...SOLICITOUS STAN.
THEY NEVER SUSPECTED I CONCEALED A CAPSULE IN MY MOUTH BEFORE THEY GRABBED ME...AN' BROKE IT WITH MY TEETH THE MOMENT THEY TURNED ON THAT BLASTED ALPHA-MACHINE!
OL' STRUCKER LOOKED LIKE HE WAS GONNA BUST A MONOCLE AFTER I SLIPPED OUTTA HIS OVER-SIZED TOASTER!
RIGHT NOW, I BETTER PICK UP SOME OF MY GEAR AN' SPLIT! THEM HYDRA GOONS'LL BE DOGGIN' ME AS SOON AS THEY FIGURE OUT THE LITTLE DISAPPEARIN' ACT I PULLED!
MY ONLY CHANCE IS TO CREATE SOME KIND'A MIX-UP TO GET THEIR ATTENTION AWAY FROM LAURA! NOTHIN' TO DO BUT PLAY IT BY EAR FROM HERE ON IN!
MEANWHILE...
YOU ALLOWED HIM TO ESCAPE...NOW FIND HIM, YOU CARELESS FOOLS OR YOU'LL TAKE HIS PLACE!
NOT EVEN FURY CAN SURVIVE THE ODDS ON HYDRA ISLAND!
QUICKLY, BEFORE I LOSE MY TEMPER!
YOUR COMMAND WILL BE CARRIED OUT IMMEDIATELY, IMPERIAL ONE!
AS, NOT FAR AWAY, THE SHIELD STALWART RAPIDLY ASSEMBLES A WEAPON FROM HIS AUXILIARY BELT...
THIS LITTLE FIREBALL-SHOOTER SHOULD TAKE THE PRESSURE OFF ME IF THINGS START GETTIN' HOT!
AN' I GOT A FEELIN' THINGS ARE GONNA START COOKIN' JUST ABOUT NOW!
4.

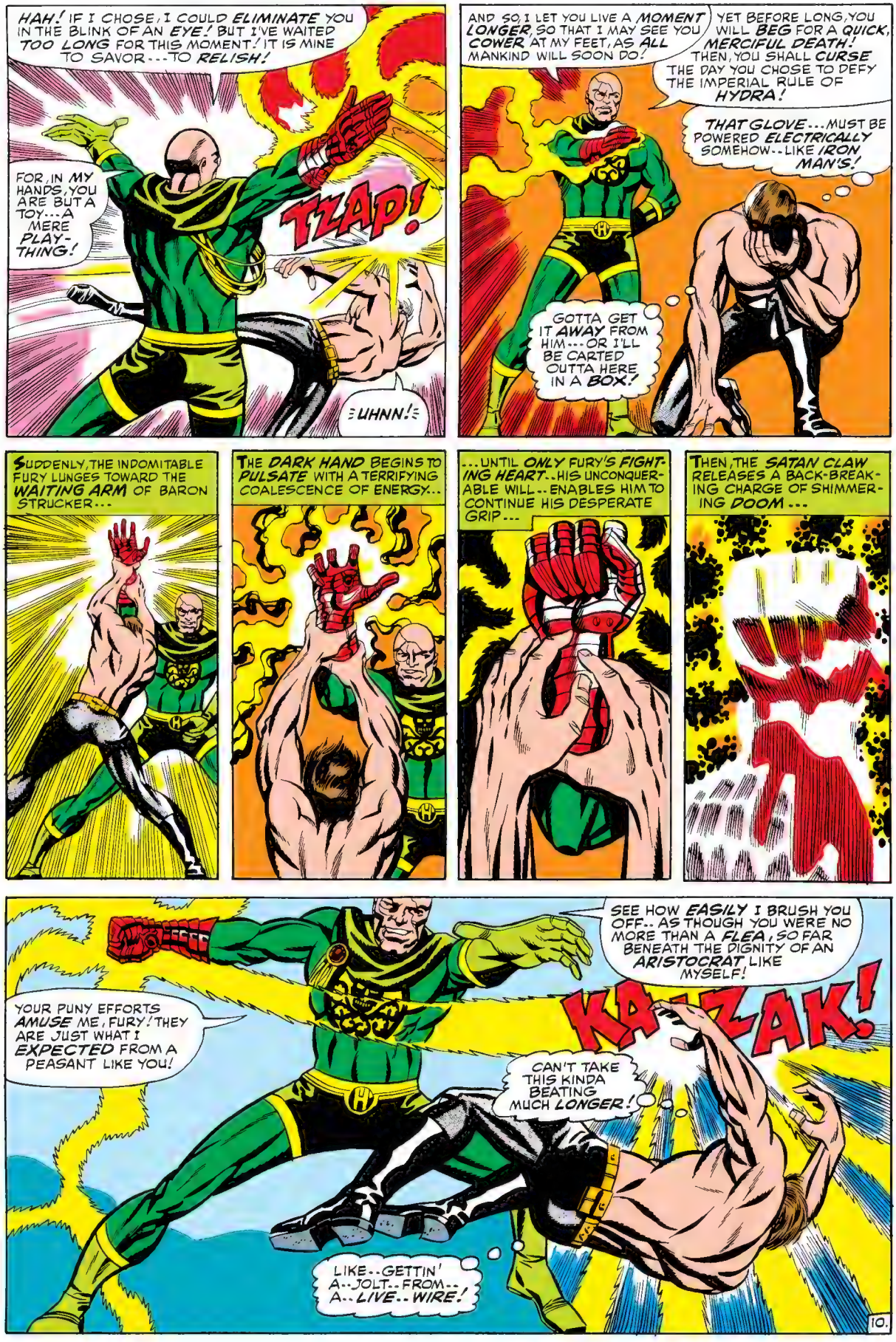
THEN, WITHOUT HESITATION, THE DYNAMIC AGENT OF SHIELD BURSTS ON THE SCENE LIKE A HUMAN THUNDERBOLT, EXPLODING INTO SPLIT-SECOND ACTION AGAINST HYDRA MASTER KILLERS IN A SPELL-BINDING TOURNAMENT OF DEATH!
THERE HE IS! FOLLOW THE SUPREME ONE'S COMMAND--- FIRE ON RECOGNITION!
WE'VE GOT HIM TRAPPED HERE IN THE TRANSPORT TERMINAL! DON'T LET---UNNHH!
LOOK OUT! THAT PISTOL ...SHOOTING HIGH INTENSITY PHOSPHOROUS BURSTS...IT--IIEEAAHH!
FTOOM! FTOOM! FTOOM!
HATE TO DROP IN ON YOU BOYS LIKE THIS, BUT I AIN'T EXACTLY GOT TIME TO DO THE R.S.V.P. BIT!
WHAT'SA MATTER? HAVEN'T YA EVER SEEN ERROL FLYNN DO THIS ON THE LATE LATE SHOW? WORKS EVERY TIME!


FTOOM!
FTOOM!
K-KRAK!
THAT'S IT! YOU CLOWNS KEEP STANDIN' IN ONE SPOT, SO'S OL' UNCLE NICK WON'T HAVE TO WASTE MUCH TIME L LINING YA UP IN HIS SIGHTS!
NICE PISTOL YA GOT HERE, PAL! MIND IF I JUST HELP YA GET OFF A FEW ROUNDS?
MOMENTS LATER---
WHAT A JOINT TO PLAY HIDE-AN'-SEEK IN! THESE LITTLE SHUTTLE CARS SURE COME IN HANDY IF YOU DON'T WANT TO STAY IN ONE PLACE TOO LONG!
AND NOW THAT I'M RIGHT IN THE HEART OF THIS SET-UP, I MIGHT AS WELL LAY A FEW COMMANDO TRICKS ON 'EM!
THINK I'LL JUST DROP A COUPLE OF INCENDIARY DISCS DOWN THIS TRANSPOR-TUNNEL AN' SEE WHAT HAPPENS!
YEAH! THAT OUGHTTA KEEP 'EM OUTTA MY HAIR FOR A WHILE!
SHA-KOOM!
AIN'T IT WONDERFUL TO BE LOVED? IF THEY KEEP ACTIN' LIKE THAT, A FELLA COULD GET THE FEELING HE ISN'T WANTED!
IT'S FURY! WE FOUND HIM! USE PLAN K-II!
ATTACK HIM ONE AT A TIME AND EXHAUST HIM FOR THE KILL!
GOTTA SAVE SOME OF MY ARTILLERY FOR THE RETURN TRIP! LOOKS LIKE I GOTTA TAKE 'EM ON HAND-TO-HAND! ODDS ARE ONLY NINE-TO-ONE ANYWAY!
6.

HEY! WHAT THE..?
REAL SNAPPY DIALOGUE YA GOT THERE, PAL! WHO WRITES YOUR MATERIAL, SOUPY SALES?
NO NEED FOR YOU TO BE SHY, MISTER! NICK FURY'S NEVER BEEN ONE TO PLAY FAVORITES!
THUD!
YOU MUSTA LEARNED TO GRAPPLE BY RUNNIN' THE BUBBLE MACHINE ON THE LAWRENCE WELK SHOW!
OOFFHH!
DON'T LOOK NOW, CHUM, BUT ATTACK PLAN K-11 IS ONE BIG FLOP! I AIN'T EVEN GETTIN' WINDED!
KRUNCH!
WATCH CLOSE NOW, CHARLIE! HERE'S A JUDO TOSS I THINK WILL REALLY GRAB YA!
UGGGHHH!
DON'T SNEAK UP ON A GUY LIKE THAT, BUDDY! I GOT ME A REAL NERVOUS NATURE!
HOW COME YOU AIN'T SMILIN'? AM I USIN' THE WRONG MOUTH-WASH?
WOOOFF!
I'M GLAD YER THE EIGHTH HYDRA BOZO ALREADY, MAC! IT AIN'T THAT I'M TIRED...! I JUST BORE EASY!
WHUMP!
NOW THAT YER ALL THROUGH, JUST ANSWER ME ONE LITTLE QUESTION...
WHERE'D YOU GUYS GET YOUR TRAINING.. SELLIN' GIRL SCOUT COOKIES?

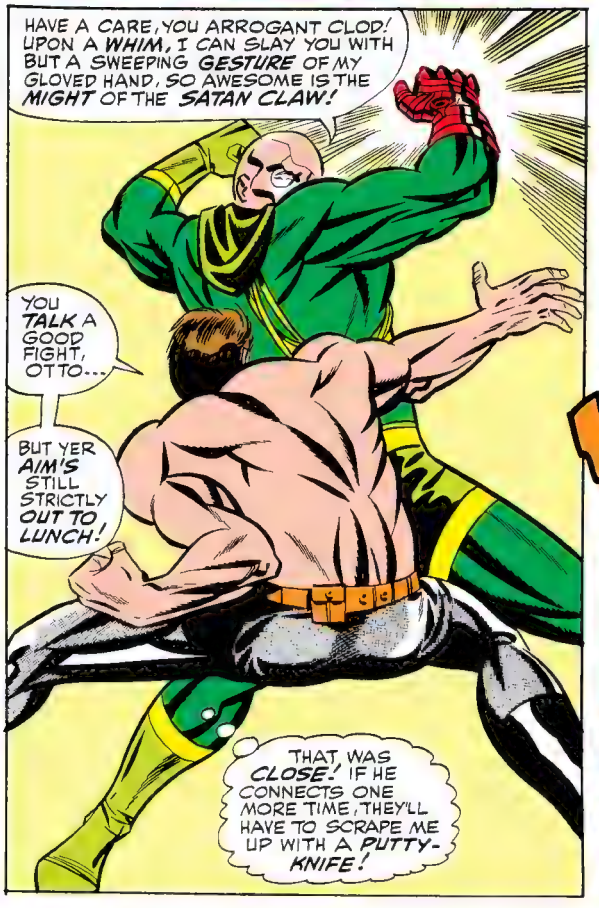
THEN, WITH THE HEINOUS HORDES OF HYDRA NEARLY UPON HIM, FURY HURLS ONE OF **SHIELD'S** MOST POTENT WEAPONS TOWARD HIS ONRUSHING ANTAGONISTS--THE FANTASTIC **HALLUCINATION CUBE!** AND, AS IT BURSTS ON IMPACT, THE TINY CAPSULE DISCHARGES AN INCREDIBLY POTENT **MIND-BENDING VAPOR**--SO POWERFUL THAT EACH MAN WITHIN ITS PROXIMITY CONJURES FROM OUT OF HIS **SUBCONSCIOUS** GHASTLY APPARITIONS OF THE THINGS HE FEARS MOST! THEN, FROM THE EBONY BLACKNESS OF A STATE OF MINDLESSNESS, UNBELIEVABLE FORMS TAKE SHAPE AND WHIRL ABOUT, STRIKING SHEER **TERROR** INTO THE HEARTS OF THOSE WHO FALL **VICTIM** TO THEIR OWN MAD CAMPAIGN OF **EVIL** AND **HATRED!** THE BLOOD ON THE HANDS OF **HYDRA** HAS RETURNED TO HAUNT THOSE WHO HAVE **SERVED** IT...


THEN, WITHOUT WARNING, THE SINISTER FIGURE OF THE SUPREME HYDRA STEPS FROM THE SHADOWS...
SO, YOU SUCCEEDED IN DEFEATING A FEW MENIALS, EH? IT WOULD HAVE BEEN A PITY HAD THEY SLAIN YOU, FURY--- FOR THAT IS A PRIVILEGE I CLAIM FOR MYSELF!
STRUCKER!!
SO YA FINALLY DECIDED TO COME OUTTA YOUR RAT'S NEST AN' MEET ME EYE-PATCH TO MONOCLE! WHY THE CHANGE OF HEART?
IT SEEMED FITTING THAT I ALONE DELIVER THE FATAL BLOW!
I'M ALL CHOKED UP!
C'MERE, YA CREEP! I BEEN WAITIN' A LONG TIME TA GET YA WHERE I CAN PULVERIZE YA!
HAIL HYD... ULP!
YOU BEEN WORKIN' SHIELD OVER FOR MONTHS ALREADY! NOW IT'S MY TURN!
IF WHAT YOU SAY IN THAT CORNY OATH IS TRUE--ABOUT CUTTIN' OFF A LIMB AND TWO TAKIN' ITS PLACE...
I'M REALLY INTERESTED IN SEEIN' WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I KNOCK THE HYDRA'S HEAD OFF!
TRY THIS FOR A STARTER, YER HIGHNESS!
WHEN I'M THROUGH WITH YOU, YER GONNA BE SORRY YA EVER MADE A COMEBACK!
KKRAK!
ZZT
YOU DARE TAUNT BARON STRUCKER WITH THE MEMORY OF OUR WARTIME BATTLES--- WHEN YOU DEFEATED ME BY A STROKE OF FORTUNE?
FOR THAT, YOU SHALL PAY... AND PAY DEARLY!
DID YOU EXPECT TO FIND ME UN-PREPARED?
I HOPED TO DESTROY YOU WITHOUT IT, BUT NOW YOU MUST FACE THE THE UNBELIEVABLE POWER OF...
THE SATAN CLAW!!
KKKKRRACKLE!
9.


HAH! IF I CHOSE, I COULD ELIMINATE YOU IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE! BUT I'VE WAITED TOO LONG FOR THIS MOMENT! IT IS MINE TO SAVOR---TO RELISH!
FOR, IN MY HANDS, YOU ARE BUT A TOY---A MERE PLAY-THING!
TZAP!
UHNN!
AND SO, I LET YOU LIVE A MOMENT LONGER, SO THAT I MAY SEE YOU COWER AT MY FEET, AS ALL MANKIND WILL SOON DO!
YET BEFORE LONG, YOU WILL BEG FOR A QUICK, MERCIFUL DEATH! THEN, YOU SHALL CURSE THE DAY YOU CHOSE TO DEFY THE IMPERIAL RULE OF HYDRA!
THAT GLOVE... MUST BE POWERED ELECTRICALLY SOMEHOW--LIKE IRON MAN'S!
GOTTA GET IT AWAY FROM HIM---OR I'LL BE CARTED OUTTA HERE IN A BOX!
SUDDENLY, THE INDOMITABLE FURY LUNGES TOWARD THE WAITING ARM OF BARON STRUCKER...
THE DARK HAND BEGINS TO PULSATE WITH A TERRIFYING COALESCENCE OF ENERGY...
...UNTIL ONLY FURY'S FIGHTING HEART--HIS UNCONQUERABLE WILL--ENABLES HIM TO CONTINUE HIS DESPERATE GRIP...
THEN, THE SATAN CLAW RELEASES A BACK-BREAKING CHARGE OF SHIMMERING DOOM...
SEE HOW EASILY I BRUSH YOU OFF.. AS THOUGH YOU WERE NO MORE THAN A FLEA, SO FAR BENEATH THE DIGNITY OF AN ARISTOCRAT LIKE MYSELF!
KA-ZAK!
YOUR PUNY EFFORTS AMUSE ME, FURY! THEY ARE JUST WHAT I EXPECTED FROM A PEASANT LIKE YOU!
CAN'T TAKE THIS KINDA BEATING MUCH LONGER!
LIKE--GETTIN' A--JOLT--FROM--A--LIVE--WIRE!
10.

SO...YOU RISE AGAIN! YOUR IMPUDENT TENACITY ONLY MAKES THE VICTORY THAT MUCH SWEETER!
THAT'S THE OLDEST LINE IN THE BOOK, STRUCKER!
SSSSSSSSH!
I BEAT YA DURING THE BIG ONE, AN' I'M GONNA DO IT AGAIN! I AIN'T AIMIN' TO LET NO EX-NAZI SEND NICK FURY TO THE SHOWERS!

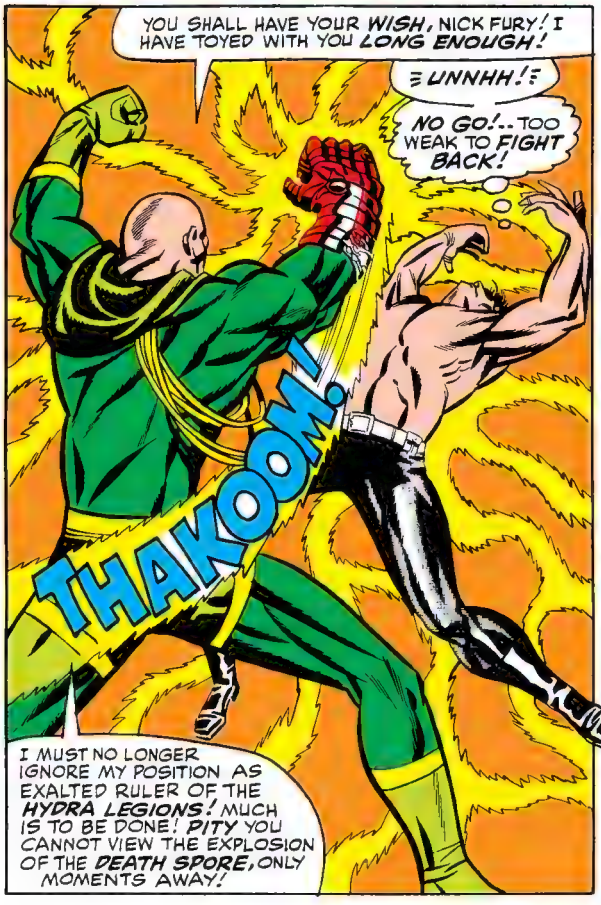
THAT WAS LONG AGO AND THINGS WERE QUITE DIFFERENT! NOW IT IS I, BARON STRUCKER, WHO WILL TEACH YOU THE MEANING OF FEAR!
YOU MIGHT JUST MAKE IT, CURLY...
...IF YOU KNEW HOW TO HANDLE THAT SOLID-STEEL CATCHER'S MITT!


HAVE A CARE, YOU ARROGANT CLOD! UPON A WHIM, I CAN SLAY YOU WITH BUT A SWEEPING GESTURE OF MY GLOVED HAND, SO AWESOME IS THE MIGHT OF THE SATAN CLAW!
YOU TALK A GOOD FIGHT, OTTO...
BUT YER AIM'S STILL STRICTLY OUT TO LUNCH!
THAT WAS CLOSE! IF HE CONNECTS ONE MORE TIME, THEY'LL HAVE TO SCRAPE ME UP WITH A PUTTY-KNIFE!

YOUR BOORISH INNUENDOS BEGIN TO ANGER ME!
THE MOMENT IS RAPIDLY APPROACHING WHEN YOU WILL ATONE FOR YOUR VULGAR COMMENTS... WHEN IT WILL NO LONGER PLEASE ME TO AMUSE MYSELF WITH YOUR VERY LIFE!
KLANG!

THEN, THE VALIANT AGENT OF SHIELD CRUMPLES TO THE FLOOR, AS THE FRIGHTENINGLY CONFIDENT FIGURE OF BARON STRUCKER TOWERS MENACINGLY ABOVE, BARELY NOTICING THE BATTERED AND BENT FORM BEFORE HIM---
MARK MY WORDS WELL, FURY---
FOR THEY SHALL BE THE LAST YOU SHALL HEAR!
JUST AS YOU NOW GROVEL IN ABJECT HELPLESSNESS BEFORE ME---THUS WILL SHIELD---AND THE WORLD!!
GOTTA GET UP... ONE MORE TIME! I JUST GOTTA!

LISTEN---AN' LISTEN GOOD, MISTER! NOBODY TRAPPED ME HERE ON THIS CRUMMY ISLAND! I CAME--ON MY OWN---GOT PAST ALL YOUR DEFENSES AND HALF YOUR CRUMMY ARMY!
I HAD THE UPPER HAND RIGHT TO THE END! EVEN WHEN YA HAD ME, I FOOLED YA!
YOU WOULDN'T EVEN BE STANDIN' THERE NOW IF YOU DIDN'T HAVE THAT STEEL MITTEN!
SO, ANY WAY YA LOOK AT IT, I'M THE ONE WHO WINS THIS ROUND---EVEN IF YA KILL ME!
AN' YOU BETTER KILL ME--- 'CAUSE THAT'S THE ONLY WAY YER EVER GONNA STOP ME!

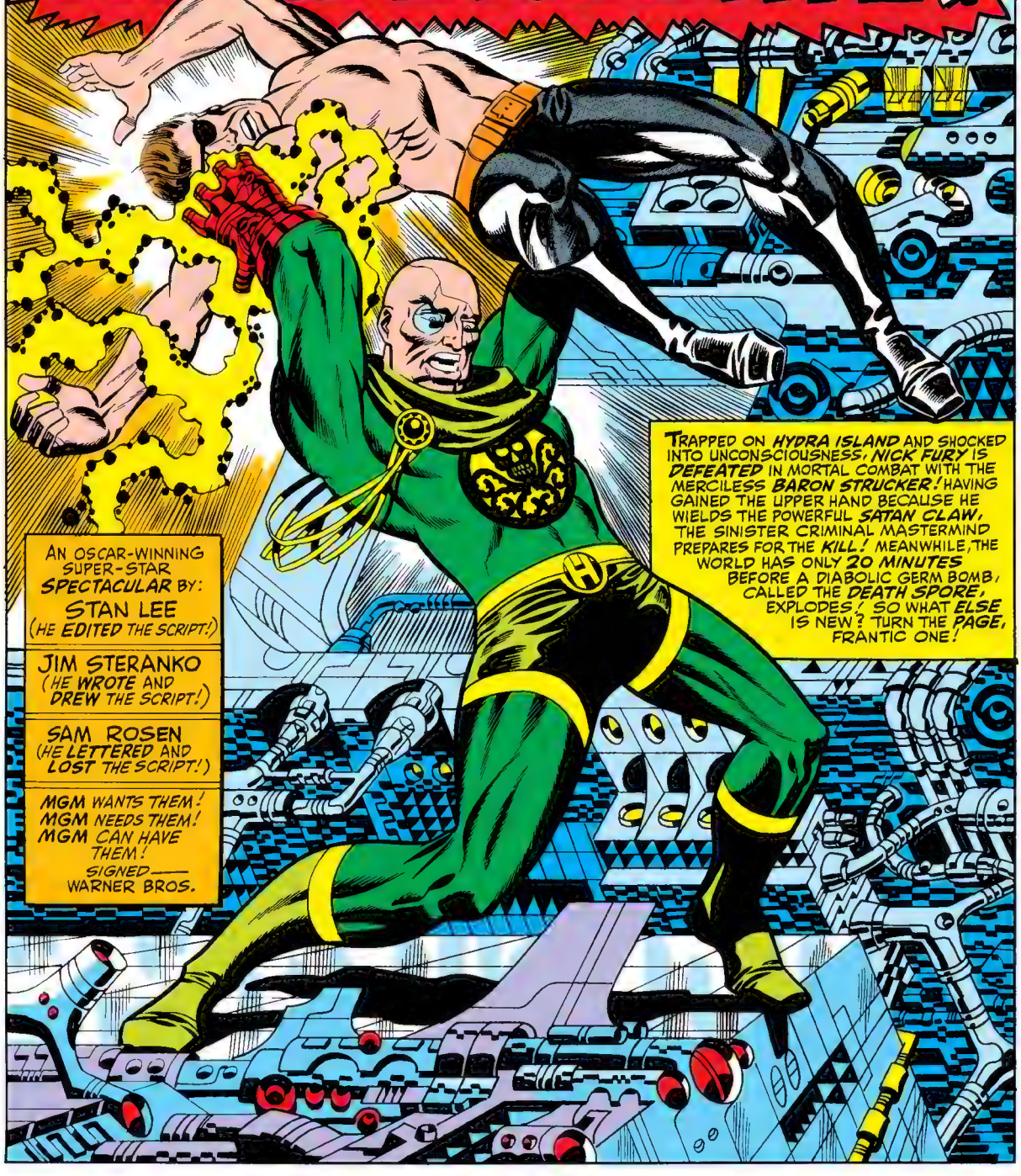

YOU SHALL HAVE YOUR WISH, NICK FURY! I HAVE TOYED WITH YOU LONG ENOUGH!
UNNHH!
NO GO!--TOO WEAK TO FIGHT BACK!
THAKOOM!
I MUST NO LONGER IGNORE MY POSITION AS EXALTED RULER OF THE HYDRA LEGIONS! MUCH IS TO BE DONE! PITY YOU CANNOT VIEW THE EXPLOSION OF THE DEATH SPORE, ONLY MOMENTS AWAY!

AND NOW, OBSERVE AS THE ELECTRONIC CURRENT PULSES FROM THE SATAN CLAW... TO DESTROY YOU!
---MY FINAL ACT BEFORE I BECOME---MASTER OF THE WORLD!
NUMB... STUNNED.. CAN'T EVEN STAND UP!
IT LOOKS LIKE--- THE END!!
NEXT ISH: FINAL ENCOUNTER!

# NICK FURY, AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D.!

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS INTERNATIONAL ESPIONAGE LAW-ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

# "FINAL ENCOUNTER!"



TRAPPED ON *HYDRA ISLAND* AND SHOCKED INTO UNCONSCIOUSNESS, *NICK FURY* IS *DEFEATED* IN MORTAL COMBAT WITH THE MERCILESS *BARON STRUCKER!* HAVING GAINED THE UPPER HAND BECAUSE HE WIELDS THE POWERFUL *SATAN CLAW*, THE SINISTER CRIMINAL MASTERMIND PREPARES FOR THE *KILL!* MEANWHILE, THE WORLD HAS ONLY *20 MINUTES* BEFORE A DIABOLIC GERM BOMB, CALLED THE *DEATH SPORE*, EXPLODES! SO WHAT *ELSE* IS NEW? TURN THE *PAGE*, FRANTIC ONE!

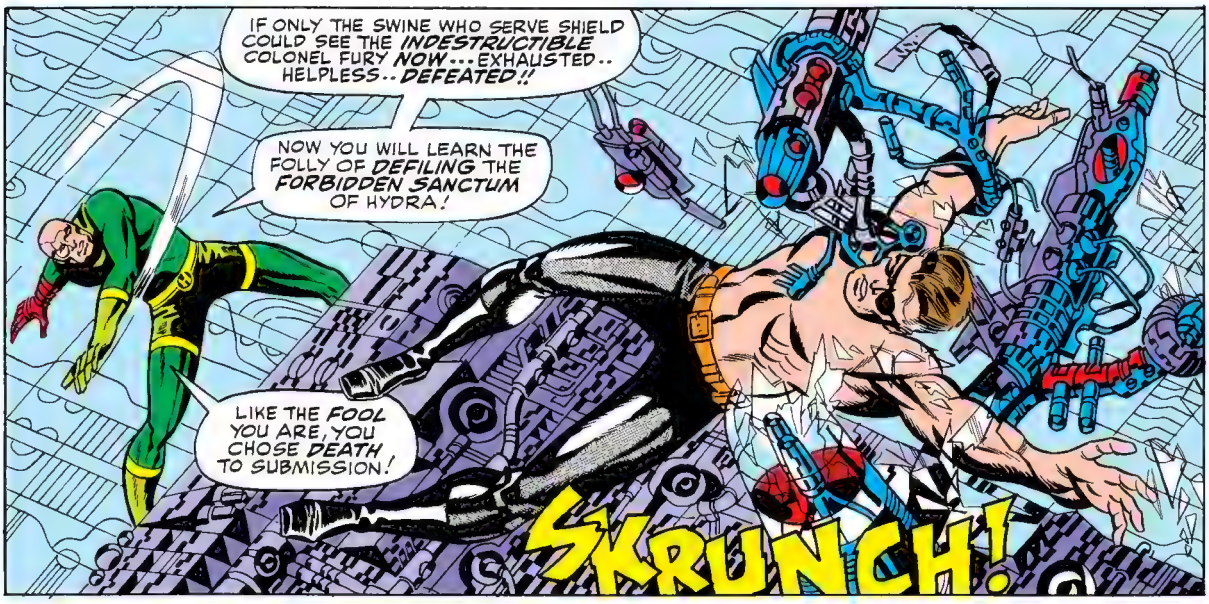
AN OSCAR-WINNING SUPER-STAR *SPECTACULAR* BY:

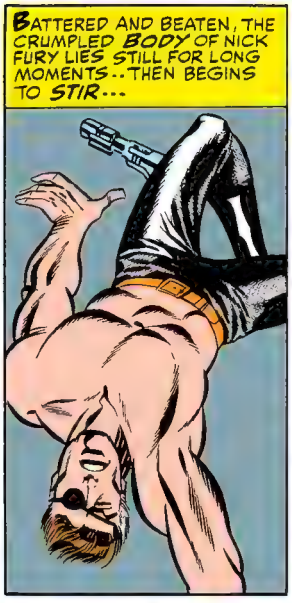
STAN LEE
(HE *EDITED* THE SCRIPT!)

JIM STERANKO
(HE *WROTE* AND *DREW* THE SCRIPT!)

SAM ROSEN
(HE *LETTERED* AND *LOST* THE SCRIPT!)

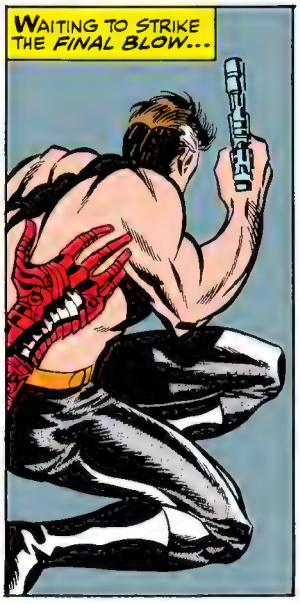
*MGM* WANTS THEM!
*MGM* NEEDS THEM!
*MGM* CAN HAVE THEM!
SIGNED——
WARNER BROS.

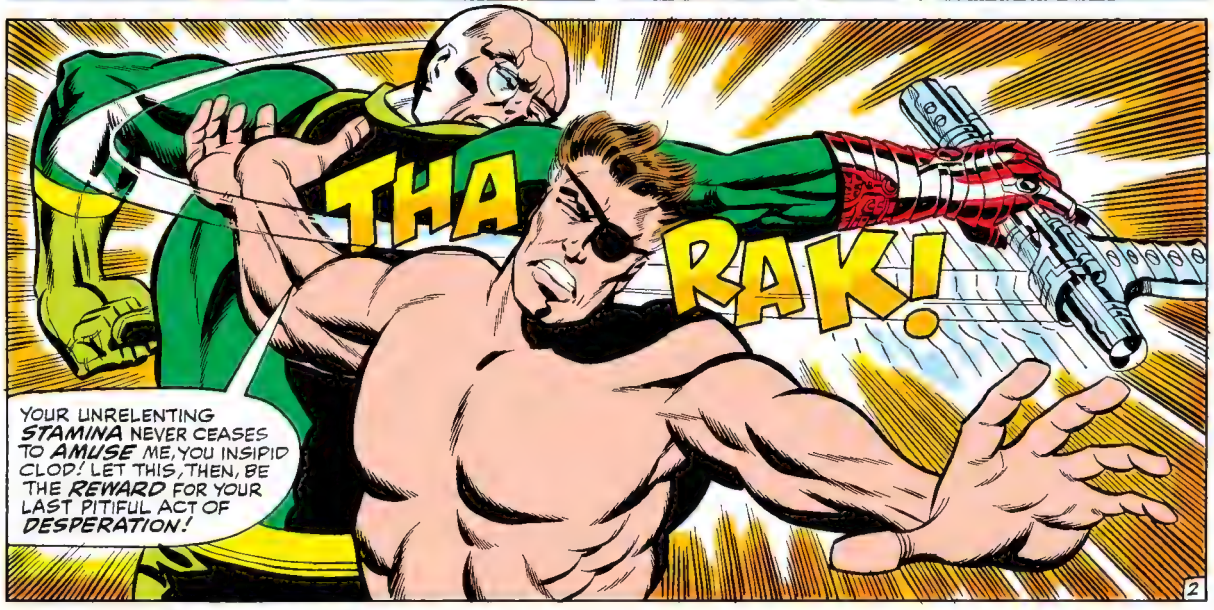

IF ONLY THE SWINE WHO SERVE SHIELD COULD SEE THE INDESTRUCTIBLE COLONEL FURY NOW...EXHAUSTED.. HELPLESS..DEFEATED!!
NOW YOU WILL LEARN THE FOLLY OF DEFILING THE FORBIDDEN SANCTUM OF HYDRA!
LIKE THE FOOL YOU ARE, YOU CHOSE DEATH TO SUBMISSION!
SKRUNCH!

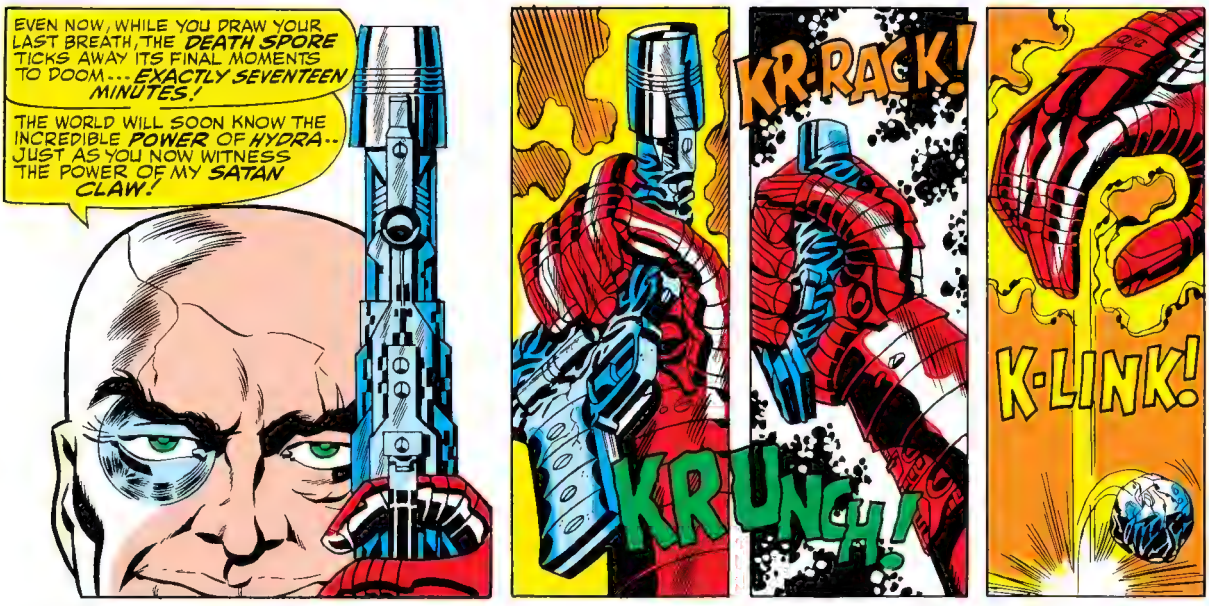

BATTERED AND BEATEN, THE CRUMPLED BODY OF NICK FURY LIES STILL FOR LONG MOMENTS..THEN BEGINS TO STIR...

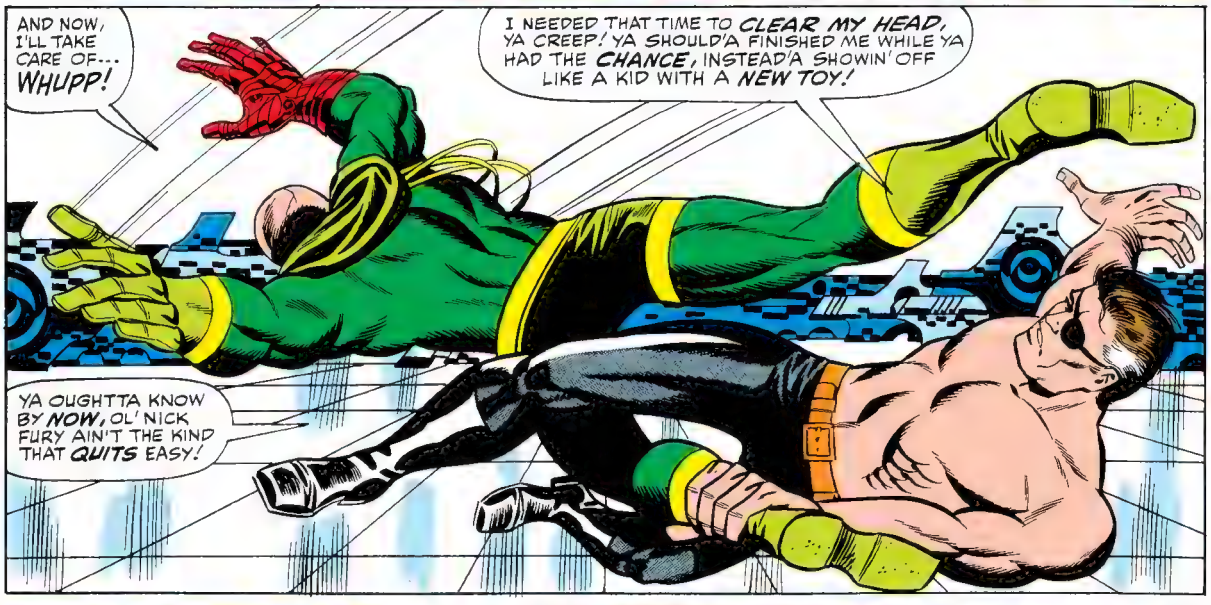
PAINFULLY...WITH AGONIZING SLOWNESS, THE TORN AND TORMENTED FIGURE RISES.. AS HIS MISTY EYES SPY A FALLEN WEAPON...

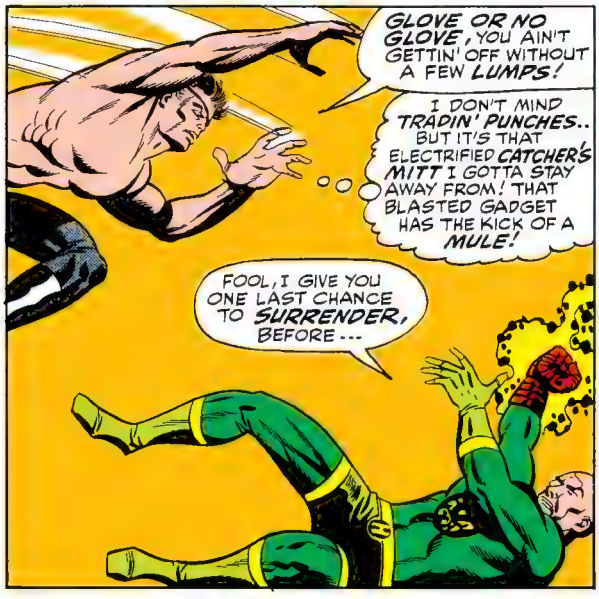
..AS YET UNAWARE OF THE PRESENCE LURKING BEHIND HIM... WAITING TO MOVE IN..

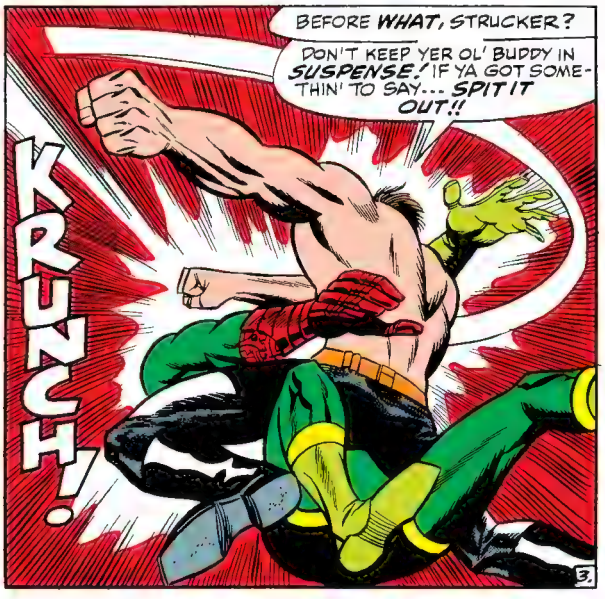

WAITING TO STRIKE THE FINAL BLOW...

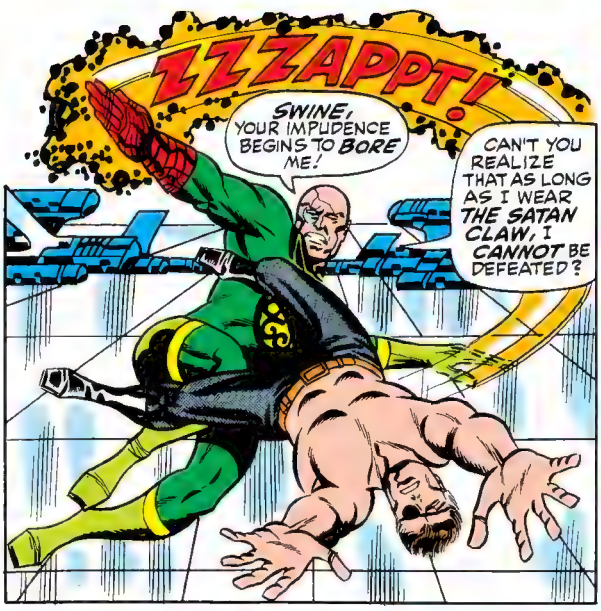

THA
RAK!
YOUR UNRELENTING STAMINA NEVER CEASES TO AMUSE ME, YOU INSIPID CLOD! LET THIS, THEN, BE THE REWARD FOR YOUR LAST PITIFUL ACT OF DESPERATION!
2

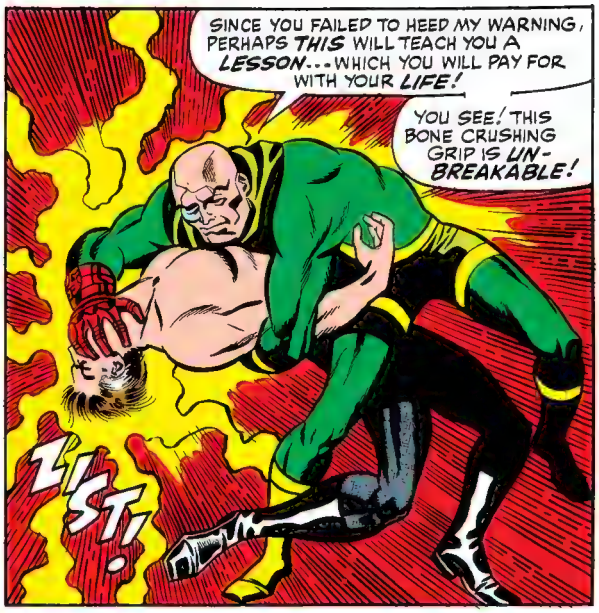

EVEN NOW, WHILE YOU DRAW YOUR LAST BREATH, THE DEATH SPORE TICKS AWAY ITS FINAL MOMENTS TO DOOM... EXACTLY SEVENTEEN MINUTES!
THE WORLD WILL SOON KNOW THE INCREDIBLE POWER OF HYDRA.. JUST AS YOU NOW WITNESS THE POWER OF MY SATAN CLAW!
KR-RACK!
KRUNCH!
K-LINK!

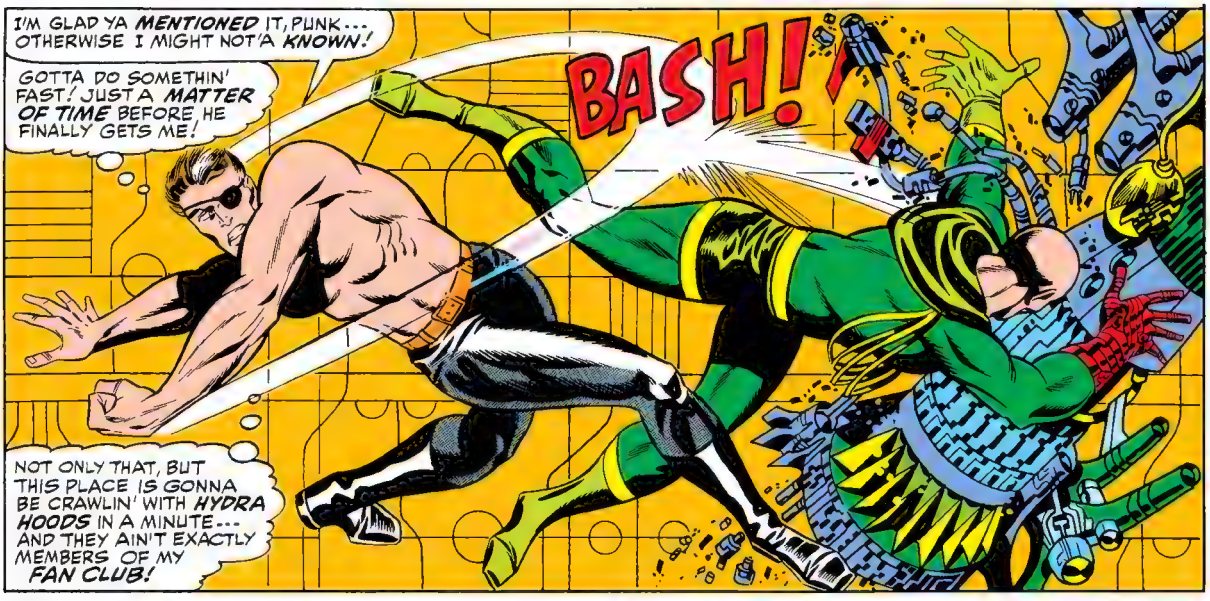

AND NOW, I'LL TAKE CARE OF... WHUPP!
I NEEDED THAT TIME TO CLEAR MY HEAD, YA CREEP! YA SHOULD'A FINISHED ME WHILE YA HAD THE CHANCE, INSTEAD'A SHOWIN' OFF LIKE A KID WITH A NEW TOY!
YA OUGHTTA KNOW BY NOW, OL' NICK FURY AIN'T THE KIND THAT QUITS EASY!


GLOVE OR NO GLOVE, YOU AIN'T GETTIN' OFF WITHOUT A FEW LUMPS!
I DON'T MIND TRADIN' PUNCHES.. BUT IT'S THAT ELECTRIFIED CATCHER'S MITT I GOTTA STAY AWAY FROM! THAT BLASTED GADGET HAS THE KICK OF A MULE!
FOOL, I GIVE YOU ONE LAST CHANCE TO SURRENDER, BEFORE ---

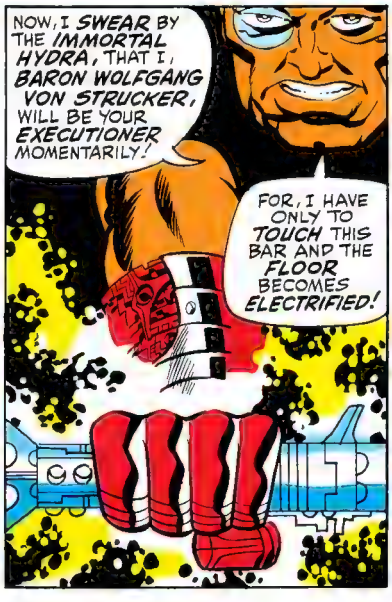

BEFORE WHAT, STRUCKER?
DON'T KEEP YER OL' BUDDY IN SUSPENSE! IF YA GOT SOMETHIN' TO SAY... SPIT IT OUT!!
KRUNCH!


ZZZAPPT!
SWINE, YOUR IMPUDENCE BEGINS TO BORE ME!
CAN'T YOU REALIZE THAT AS LONG AS I WEAR THE SATAN CLAW, I CANNOT BE DEFEATED?

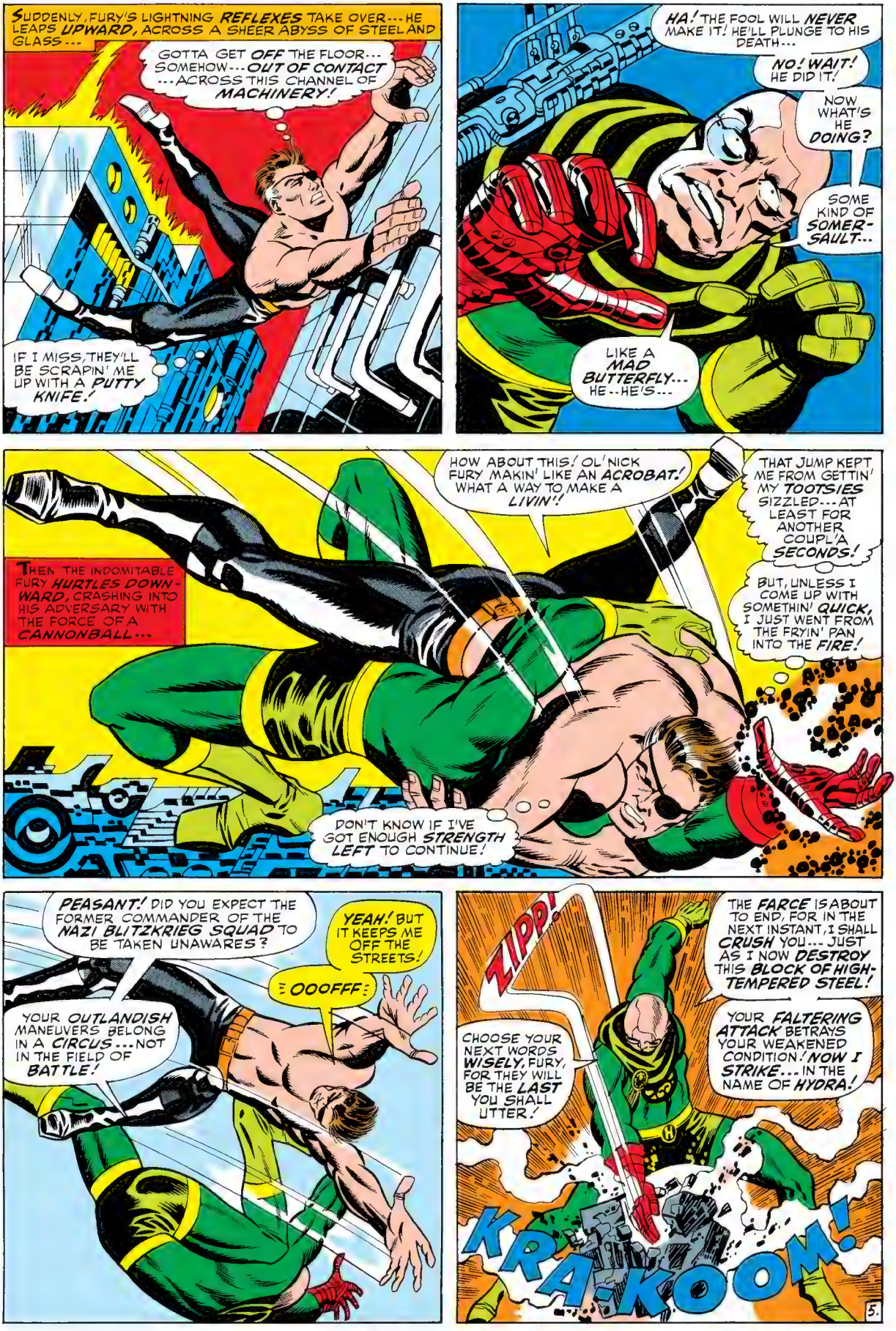

SINCE YOU FAILED TO HEED MY WARNING, PERHAPS THIS WILL TEACH YOU A LESSON... WHICH YOU WILL PAY FOR WITH YOUR LIFE!
YOU SEE! THIS BONE CRUSHING GRIP IS UN-BREAKABLE!
Z'ST!


I'M GLAD YA MENTIONED IT, PUNK... OTHERWISE I MIGHT NOT'A KNOWN!
GOTTA DO SOMETHIN' FAST! JUST A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE HE FINALLY GETS ME!
BASH!
NOT ONLY THAT, BUT THIS PLACE IS GONNA BE CRAWLIN' WITH HYDRA HOODS IN A MINUTE... AND THEY AIN'T EXACTLY MEMBERS OF MY FAN CLUB!

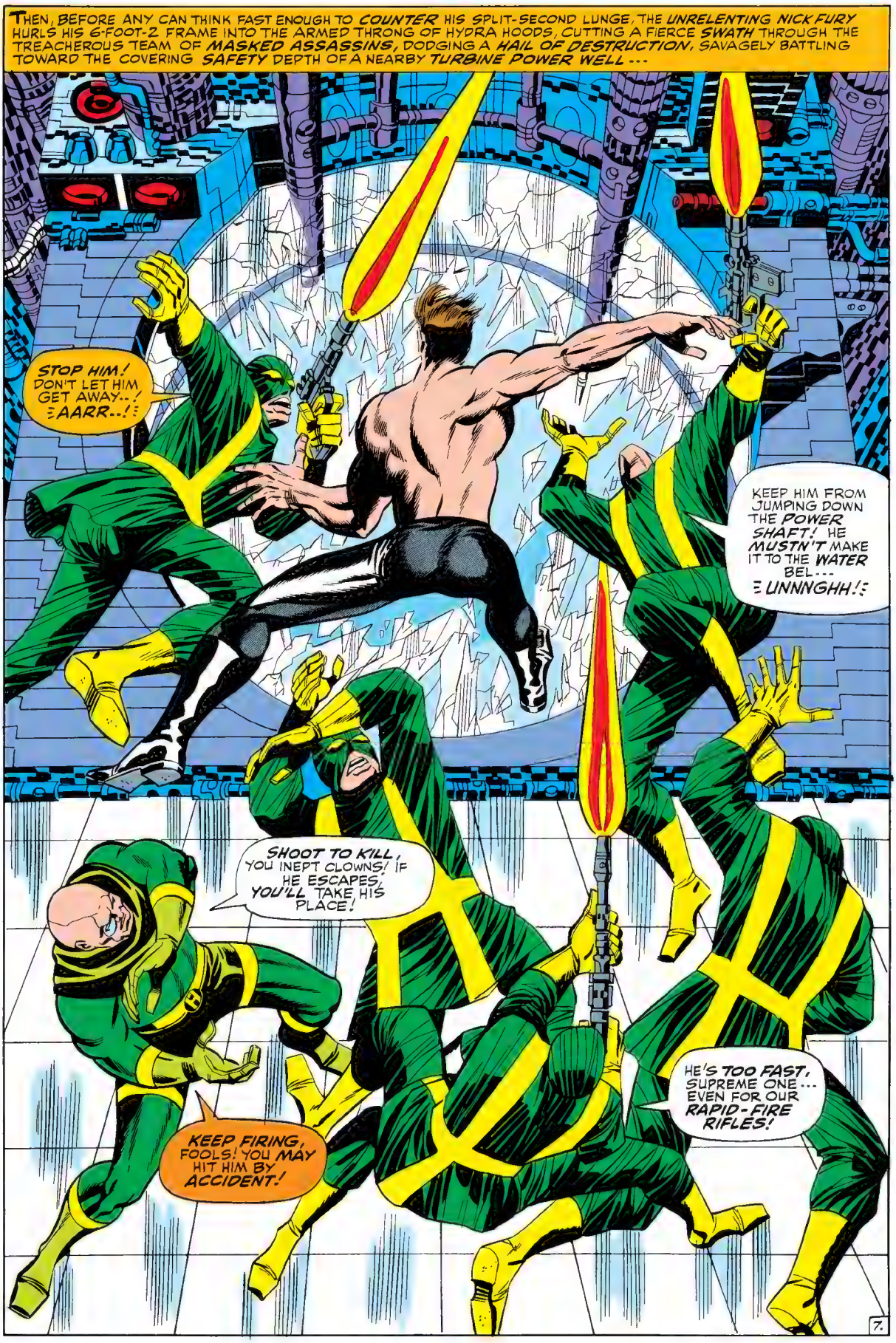
NO LONGER SHALL I SUFFER YOUR CRUDE INDIGNITIES! YOUR LUCK HAS RUN ITS COURSE!
YOUR FATE IS SEALED!


NOW, I SWEAR BY THE IMMORTAL HYDRA, THAT I, BARON WOLFGANG VON STRUCKER, WILL BE YOUR EXECUTIONER MOMENTARILY!
FOR, I HAVE ONLY TO TOUCH THIS BAR AND THE FLOOR BECOMES ELECTRIFIED!

NO KIDDIN'? ANYONE EVER TELL YA YOU'D MAKE A WONDERFUL STRANGER?
YEEE-OWW!!
THE WHOLE FLOOR'S CHARGED! .... GIVIN' ME A SUPER-HOTFOOT!


SUDDENLY, FURY'S LIGHTNING REFLEXES TAKE OVER--- HE LEAPS UPWARD, ACROSS A SHEER ABYSS OF STEEL AND GLASS---
GOTTA GET OFF THE FLOOR--- SOMEHOW--- OUT OF CONTACT ---ACROSS THIS CHANNEL OF MACHINERY!
IF I MISS, THEY'LL BE SCRAPIN' ME UP WITH A PUTTY KNIFE!
HA! THE FOOL WILL NEVER MAKE IT! HE'LL PLUNGE TO HIS DEATH---
NO! WAIT! HE DID IT!
NOW WHAT'S HE DOING?
SOME KIND OF SOMER-SAULT...
LIKE A MAD BUTTERFLY... HE--HE'S...
THEN THE INDOMITABLE FURY HURTLES DOWN-WARD, CRASHING INTO HIS ADVERSARY WITH THE FORCE OF A CANNONBALL...
HOW ABOUT THIS! OL' NICK FURY MAKIN' LIKE AN ACROBAT! WHAT A WAY TO MAKE A LIVIN'!
THAT JUMP KEPT ME FROM GETTIN' MY TOOTSIES SIZZLED--- AT LEAST FOR ANOTHER COUPL'A SECONDS!
BUT, UNLESS I COME UP WITH SOMETHIN' QUICK, I JUST WENT FROM THE FRYIN' PAN INTO THE FIRE!
DON'T KNOW IF I'VE GOT ENOUGH STRENGTH LEFT TO CONTINUE!
PEASANT! DID YOU EXPECT THE FORMER COMMANDER OF THE NAZI BLITZKRIEG SQUAD TO BE TAKEN UNAWARES?
YEAH! BUT IT KEEPS ME OFF THE STREETS!
OOOFFF!
YOUR OUTLANDISH MANEUVERS BELONG IN A CIRCUS---NOT IN THE FIELD OF BATTLE!
ZIPP!
THE FARCE IS ABOUT TO END, FOR IN THE NEXT INSTANT, I SHALL CRUSH YOU--- JUST AS I NOW DESTROY THIS BLOCK OF HIGH-TEMPERED STEEL!
CHOOSE YOUR NEXT WORDS WISELY, FURY, FOR THEY WILL BE THE LAST YOU SHALL UTTER!
YOUR FALTERING ATTACK BETRAYS YOUR WEAKENED CONDITION! NOW I STRIKE--- IN THE NAME OF HYDRA!
KRA-KOOM!
5.

HE'S RIGHT! I'M WASTED! GOTTA TAKE HIM NOW... I'LL NEVER LAST ANOTHER ROUND!
AND, IN THE SAME MOMENT, THE INTREPID AGENT OF SHIELD SETS HIS FINAL DESPERATE SCHEME INTO MOTION ...
CAN'T TAKE ANOTHER SHOCK, FROM THAT BLASTED GLOVE! GOTTA GET IT OFF HIM! JUST ONE CHANCE IN A HUNDRED THAT THIS PLAN'LL WORK!
BUT, IT'S THE ONLY ONE I GOT!
THEN, USING THE BELT LIKE A WHIP, FURY SNARES THE PULSING SATAN CLAW... A SPLIT-SECOND BEFORE STRUCKER COMPLETES HIS DEATH BLOW...
WH--??
NO! MY... MY GLOVE-- YOU CAN'T..
ZZILT!
GOTTA BE CAREFUL! IT'S STILL SHOOTIN' OFF SPARKS LIKE A ROMAN CANDLE!
I CAN'T, HUH? WHAT DO YA THINK I'M DOIN'... PLAYIN' PATTYCAKE?
AN' NOW THAT I TOOK YOUR TOY AWAY, SUPPOSE WE SETTLE THIS LIKE GROWN-UPS!
IN OTHER WORDS TAKE OFF THAT EYEPIECE, PAL, FURY'S GONNA CHANGE THE SHAPE OF YOUR FACE!
YET, YOU ARE TOO LATE TO STOP THE WHEELS OF DESTINY, CLOD! THE WORLD HAS ONLY 13 MINUTES BEFORE THE DEATH SPORE EXPLODES!
TIME TO GO NIGHTY-NIGHT, YOUR HIGHNESS!
BUT, DON'T WORRY.. IF YA MISS ANYTHIN' IMPORTANT WHILE I'M FINISHIN' OFF THE REST'A HYDRA, I'LL CLUE YA IN!
WAK!
THERE WILL BE NO NEED, FURY... FOR, IT ISN'T HYDRA THAT IS FINISHED... BUT YOU!
YOU GOT HERE JUST IN TIME, FOOLS! FURY HAD BEATEN ME BY DECEIT!
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? KILL HIM, YOU BLUNDERING IDIOTS... KILL HIM!!
6.


THEN, BEFORE ANY CAN THINK FAST ENOUGH TO COUNTER HIS SPLIT-SECOND LUNGE, THE UNRELENTING NICK FURY HURLS HIS 6-FOOT-2 FRAME INTO THE ARMED THRONG OF HYDRA HOODS, CUTTING A FIERCE SWATH THROUGH THE TREACHEROUS TEAM OF MASKED ASSASSINS, DODGING A HAIL OF DESTRUCTION, SAVAGELY BATTLING TOWARD THE COVERING SAFETY DEPTH OF A NEARBY TURBINE POWER WELL ---
STOP HIM! DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY--! AARR--!
KEEP HIM FROM JUMPING DOWN THE POWER SHAFT! HE MUSTN'T MAKE IT TO THE WATER BEL--- UNNNGHH!
SHOOT TO KILL, YOU INEPT CLOWNS! IF HE ESCAPES, YOU'LL TAKE HIS PLACE!
KEEP FIRING, FOOLS! YOU MAY HIT HIM BY ACCIDENT!
HE'S TOO FAST, SUPREME ONE... EVEN FOR OUR RAPID-FIRE RIFLES!
7.

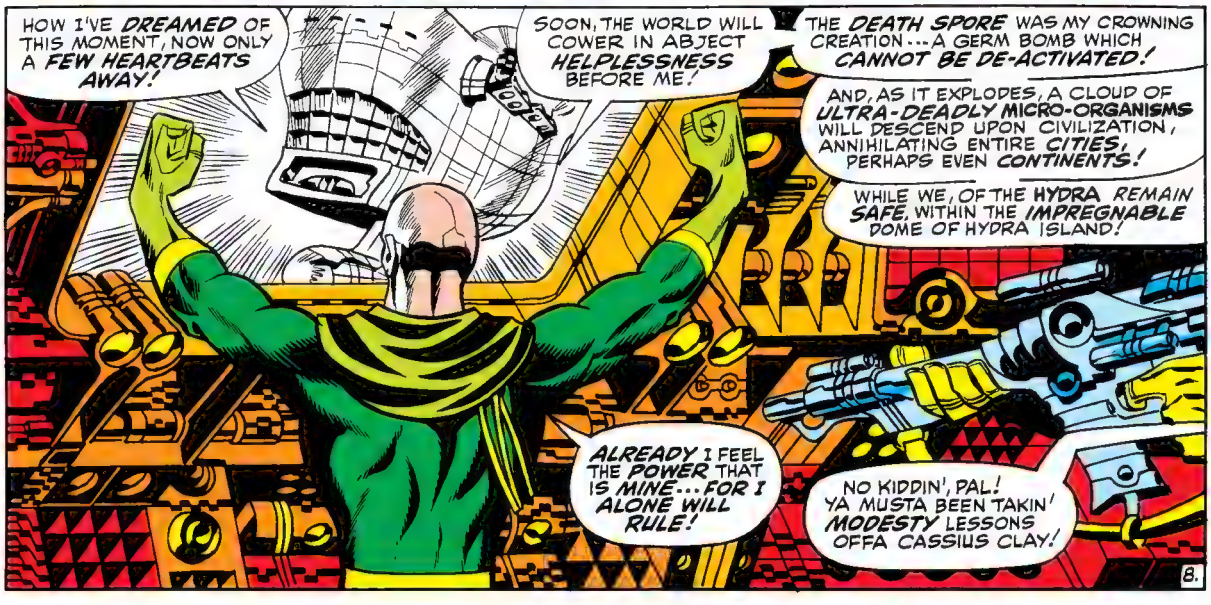
THEN, PLUNGING INTO THE SHEER CYLINDER, THE DYNAMIC DIRECTOR OF SHIELD GAINS THE COVER OF THE ICY DARKNESS, AS A VOLLEY OF LETHAL SHELLS STEAM INTO THE WATER AROUND HIM ---
UH-OH! GUESS THIS IS IT... TRAPPED HERE!
NO WAY OUT... I FIGURED WRONG!

WHILE, ABOVE HIM, THE HYDRA HORDE RELEASES A MAELSTROM OF DEATH INTO THE WELL, EACH SHOT SEEKING TO FIND ITS TARGET WRITHING BELOW ---
THAKA-THAK-THAKA

STOP FIRING!!
EVEN IF FURY ESCAPED THAT SALVO, HE'LL COME UP FOR AIR! WE'LL WAIT!

TWO--THREE--FIVE MINUTES.. THE SURFACE REMAINS UNBROKEN, EXCEPT FOR A FINAL CLUSTER OF BUBBLES RISING ALONE ...
NO MAN COULD LAST THIS LONG WITHOUT AIR! AT LAST--- NICK FURY IS DEAD!
HAIL HYDRA!

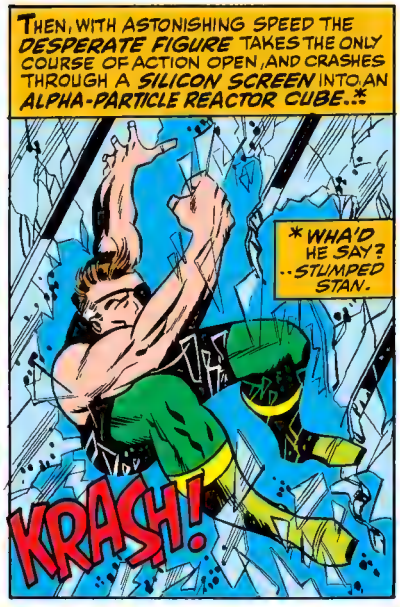
THEN, SECONDS LATER ---
FOCUS THE SCANNER ON SHIELD'S DOOMED HELI-CARRIER! THE IMPERIAL HYDRA COMMANDS!
HOW MUCH LONGER MUST WE WAIT FOR THE SIGN WHICH HERALDS OUR REIGN?
ONLY TWO MINUTES BEFORE THE DEATH SPORE DETONATES, YOUR EMINENCE!


HOW I'VE DREAMED OF THIS MOMENT, NOW ONLY A FEW HEARTBEATS AWAY!
SOON, THE WORLD WILL COWER IN ABJECT HELPLESSNESS BEFORE ME!
THE DEATH SPORE WAS MY CROWNING CREATION ... A GERM BOMB WHICH CANNOT BE DE-ACTIVATED!
AND, AS IT EXPLODES, A CLOUD OF ULTRA-DEADLY MICRO-ORGANISMS WILL DESCEND UPON CIVILIZATION, ANNIHILATING ENTIRE CITIES, PERHAPS EVEN CONTINENTS!
WHILE WE, OF THE HYDRA REMAIN SAFE, WITHIN THE IMPREGNABLE DOME OF HYDRA ISLAND!
ALREADY I FEEL THE POWER THAT IS MINE... FOR I ALONE WILL RULE!
NO KIDDIN', PAL! YA MUSTA BEEN TAKIN' MODESTY LESSONS OFFA CASSIUS CLAY!

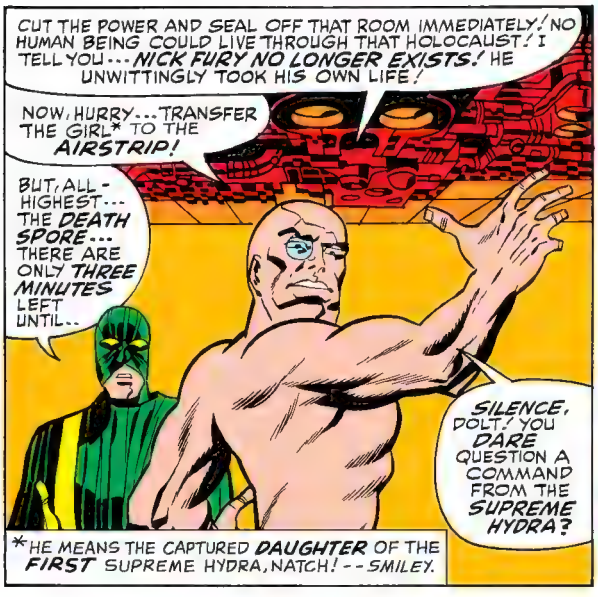
STAND WHERE YA ARE, STRUCKER! DON'T EVEN BAT AN EYE! YA KNOW HOW NERVOUS OL' NICK'S TRIGGER FINGER GITS!
SURPRISED?? WE BEEN THROUGH TOO MUCH TA NEVER SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN! I MEAN--IT WOULDA BROKE MY LITTLE HEART, OL' BUDDY!
'SIDES, WE STILL GOT A SCORE TA SETTLE --- AN' I ALWAYS HATE TO LEAVE ANY LOOSE ENDS FLAPPIN'!
"YA SEE, WHEN I DOVE DOWN THAT WELL, I THOUGHT THERE MIGHT BE A WAY OUT... BUT THERE WASN'T! I KNEW YOU'D BE WAITIN' FOR ME IF I CAME UP FOR AIR! THEN, I REMEMBERED THE OXYGEN PELLETS I CARRY UNDER MY WAISBAND! I PLAYED POSSUM 'TIL YOU THOUGHT I WAS DEAD, THEN, CLIMBED OUT AND RACED TO GET HERE BEFORE YOU DID!"
THEN, FURY, YOU MERELY POSTPONED YOUR DEATH! BECAUSE, FOR YOU, THERE IS NO ESCAPE FROM HYDRA ISLAND!
THAT'S YOUR STORY! BUT THE GAME AIN'T OVER YET! I STILL GOT AN ACE OR TWO UP MY SLEEVE!
BUT, WITHIN MINUTES THE ELITE HYDRA GUARD ENTERS THE CHAMBER...
STOP! MAKE NO MOVE!
WAIT! CAN'T YOU SEE WE ARE IN THE IMPERIAL PRESENCE?
BUT.. BUT HOW CAN IT BE POSSIBLE? THERE ARE... TWO OF THEM!!
NOT TWO, YOU CLODS! IT'S NICK FURY THAT I'M FIGHTING! HE'S USED THE EPIDER-MASK MACHINE TO CHANGE HIS FACE!
DON'T LISTEN TO HIM, FOOLS! IT IS HE THAT HAS USED THE MACHINE TO CREATE A MASK TO DECEIVE YOU! A CRUDE PLOY TO ESCAPE HIS ULTIMATE FATE!
QUICKLY... GRAB HIM AND STRIP AWAY THE DISGUISE!!
THIS APPEARS TO BE YOUR DAY FOR MASQUERADING! BUT NOW, THE TABLES ARE TURNED AGAIN, FURY! A PITY YOUR SCHEME FAILED!
IT IS.. IT'S HIM!
YOUR TIME HAS FINALLY RUN OUT!
9.

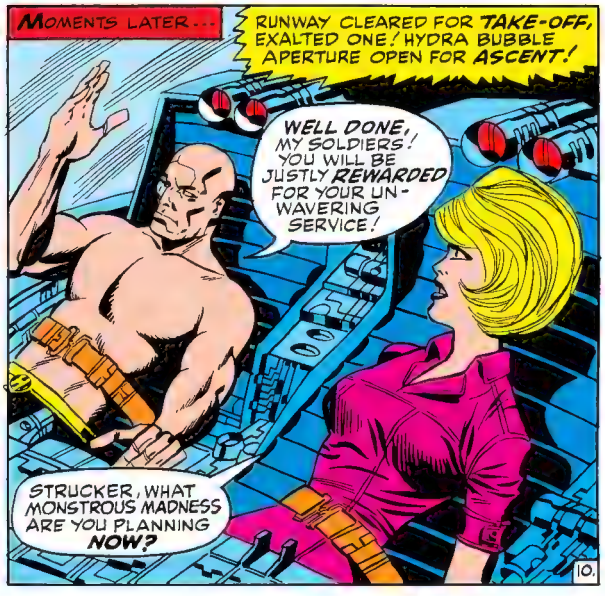
NO!!
IT CAN'T END THIS WAY!
NOT BY THE HAND OF HYDRA!
I CAN'T LET IT HAPPEN!

LOOK OUT! HE'S MAKING A BREAK FOR IT... SHOOT!!
TAKE CARE NOT TO HIT THE EXALTED PRESENCE!
WOK!


THEN, WITH ASTONISHING SPEED THE DESPERATE FIGURE TAKES THE ONLY COURSE OF ACTION OPEN, AND CRASHES THROUGH A SILICON SCREEN INTO AN ALPHA-PARTICLE REACTOR CUBE..*
*WHA'D HE SAY? ..STUMPED STAN.
KRASH!

AND, IN THE FOLLOWING INSTANT, DELICATE ARMATURES ARE TRIPPED--AS POWERFUL GENERATORS SHORT-CIRCUIT, RELEASING VOLATILIZING BEAMS OF ENERGIZED DEATH AND DESTRUCTION!
TOWERING REACTORS BUCKLE AND TEAR UNDER THE SCATHING HIGH TENSION ARCS...CHROME AND STEEL VAPORIZE IN A RAVENING SCINTILLA OF INCANDESCENCE--AND, SILHOUETTED AGAINST THE CATACLYSMIC FUSION, THE FIGURE OF A MAN FOR WHICH, THIS TIME, THERE CAN BE... NO ESCAPE!!


CUT THE POWER AND SEAL OFF THAT ROOM IMMEDIATELY! NO HUMAN BEING COULD LIVE THROUGH THAT HOLOCAUST! I TELL YOU... NICK FURY NO LONGER EXISTS! HE UNWITTINGLY TOOK HIS OWN LIFE!
NOW, HURRY... TRANSFER THE GIRL* TO THE AIRSTRIP!
BUT, ALL-HIGHEST... THE DEATH SPORE... THERE ARE ONLY THREE MINUTES LEFT UNTIL..
SILENCE, DOLT! YOU DARE QUESTION A COMMAND FROM THE SUPREME HYDRA?
*HE MEANS THE CAPTURED DAUGHTER OF THE FIRST SUPREME HYDRA, NATCH! --SMILEY.


MOMENTS LATER...
RUNWAY CLEARED FOR TAKE-OFF, EXALTED ONE! HYDRA BUBBLE APERTURE OPEN FOR ASCENT!
WELL DONE, MY SOLDIERS! YOU WILL BE JUSTLY REWARDED FOR YOUR UNWAVERING SERVICE!
STRUCKER, WHAT MONSTROUS MADNESS ARE YOU PLANNING NOW?

THE NEXT SECOND...

COLONEL FURY! IT'S YOU--- BUT--BUT HOW?

TAKE IT EASY, LADY! YA JUST WITNESSED THE NEATEST SWITCH OF ALL TIME! AN' I ALWAYS THOUGHT THIS ONLY HAPPENED IN THE MOVIES!

"YA SEE, WHEN I FINALLY GOT STRUCKER ALONE IN HIS COMMUNICATIONS ROOM! AFTER I GAVE HIM A SHOT IN THE JAW, I STUCK HIM UNDER THAT FACE-CHANGING GIZMO! LUCKY I'D SEEN IT IN OPERATION JUST AFTER I GOT TO HYDRA ISLAND! SO, I GAVE HIM MY FACE AND TOOK HIM OUTTA THE MACHINE!"

"THEN, I MADE TWO MASKS OF STRUCKER'S FACE AN' PUT THEM ON BOTH OF US! JUST THEN, A PACK'A HYDRA BOYS CRASHED THE PARTY..."

I GOT 'EM TO PULL OFF STRUCKER'S MASK---NOW HE HAD MY FACE, BUT DIDN'T KNOW IT! BEFORE HE HAD TIME TO FIGGER IT OUT, THOSE HOT-HEADED CREEPS STARTED THROWIN' LEAD!

STRUCKER PANICKED, DIVED INTO A POWER CHAMBER, AND WAS BURNED TO A CINDER BEFORE YA COULD BAT AN EYE! THEM HYDRA HOODS THOUGHT IT WUZ ME!

AFTER THAT, I JUST AD-LIBBED MY WAY BACK HERE AN' GOT YOU! I'LL BET STRUCKER NEVER FIGGERED HIS FACE WOULD BE THE ONE THING THAT'D GET US OUTTA THIS JOINT!

THEY'LL NEVER BELIEVE YOU BACK AT SHIELD HEADQUARTERS! IN FACT, SO MUCH HAS HAPPENED IN THE LAST FEW HOURS, I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE IT MYSELF!

YEAH! THAT REMINDS ME---I LEFT ONE MORE LITTLE SURPRISE, WHICH THEY SHOULD BE NOTICIN' JUST ABOUT NOW!

AND, AT THAT SELF-SAME MOMENT, SOMEWHERE ON HYDRA ISLAND---

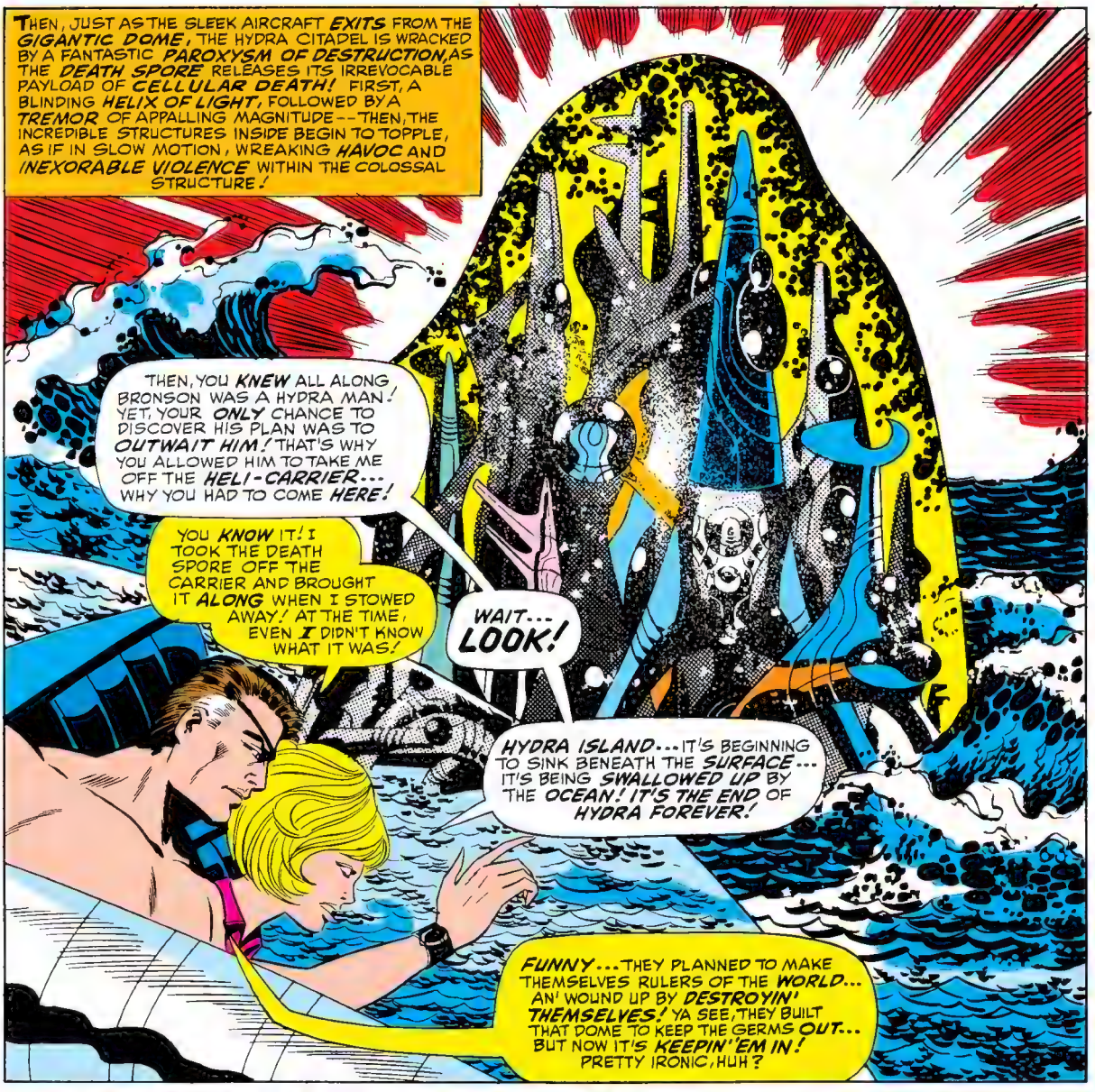
ONLY SECONDS LEFT NOW BEFORE THE DEATH SPORE EXPLODES! NO POWER ON EARTH COULD DE-ACTIVATE IT, ONCE IT HAD BEEN SET! THE HYDRA TECHNICIANS ARE, INDEED, INGENIOUS!

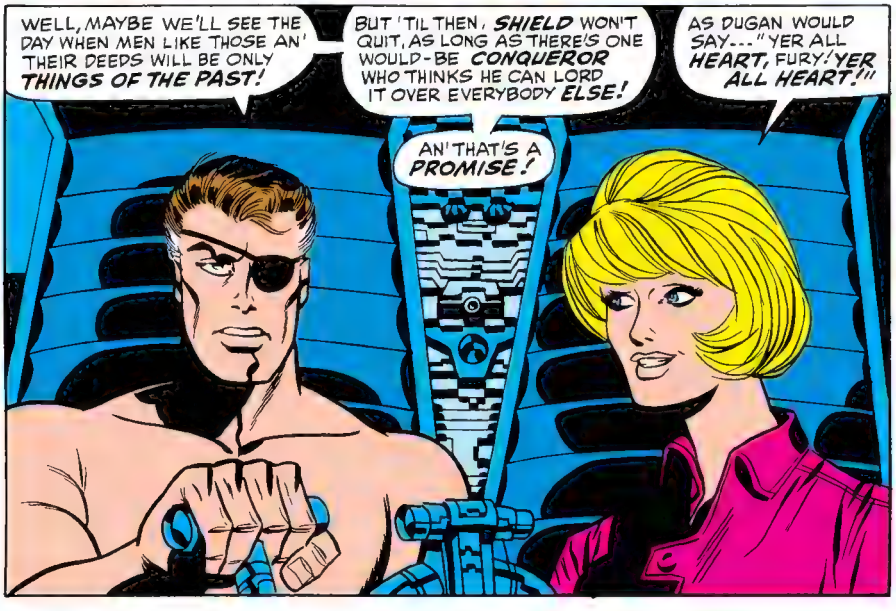
YES--ONCE ACTIVATED, IT CANNOT BE STOPPED! THAT WAS THE SUPREME ONE'S PLAN!

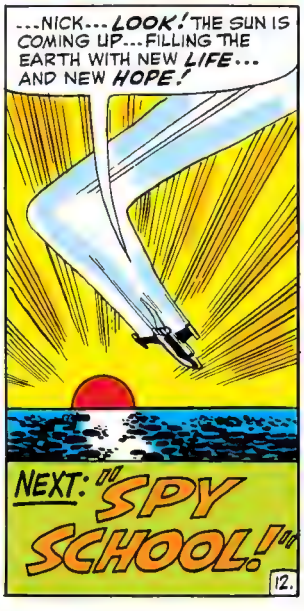
WH..? ER.. OBSERVE THE OBJECT ON THE TABLE BEFORE US! DOES IT NOT LOOK EXACTLY LIKE..?

HEH...YES, IT..DOES RATHER..AHH... RESEMBLE IT... BUT.. OF COURSE IT COULDN'T BE ...? GACK!?

COULD IT?


THEN, JUST AS THE SLEEK AIRCRAFT EXITS FROM THE GIGANTIC DOME, THE HYDRA CITADEL IS WRACKED BY A FANTASTIC PAROXYSM OF DESTRUCTION, AS THE DEATH SPORE RELEASES ITS IRREVOCABLE PAYLOAD OF CELLULAR DEATH! FIRST, A BLINDING HELIX OF LIGHT, FOLLOWED BY A TREMOR OF APPALLING MAGNITUDE--THEN, THE INCREDIBLE STRUCTURES INSIDE BEGIN TO TOPPLE, AS IF IN SLOW MOTION, WREAKING HAVOC AND INEXORABLE VIOLENCE WITHIN THE COLOSSAL STRUCTURE!
THEN, YOU KNEW ALL ALONG BRONSON WAS A HYDRA MAN! YET, YOUR ONLY CHANCE TO DISCOVER HIS PLAN WAS TO OUTWAIT HIM! THAT'S WHY YOU ALLOWED HIM TO TAKE ME OFF THE HELI-CARRIER... WHY YOU HAD TO COME HERE!
YOU KNOW IT! I TOOK THE DEATH SPORE OFF THE CARRIER AND BROUGHT IT ALONG WHEN I STOWED AWAY! AT THE TIME, EVEN I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT IT WAS!
WAIT... LOOK!
HYDRA ISLAND... IT'S BEGINNING TO SINK BENEATH THE SURFACE... IT'S BEING SWALLOWED UP BY THE OCEAN! IT'S THE END OF HYDRA FOREVER!
FUNNY... THEY PLANNED TO MAKE THEMSELVES RULERS OF THE WORLD... AN' WOUND UP BY DESTROYIN' THEMSELVES! YA SEE, THEY BUILT THAT DOME TO KEEP THE GERMS OUT... BUT NOW IT'S KEEPIN' 'EM IN! PRETTY IRONIC, HUH?

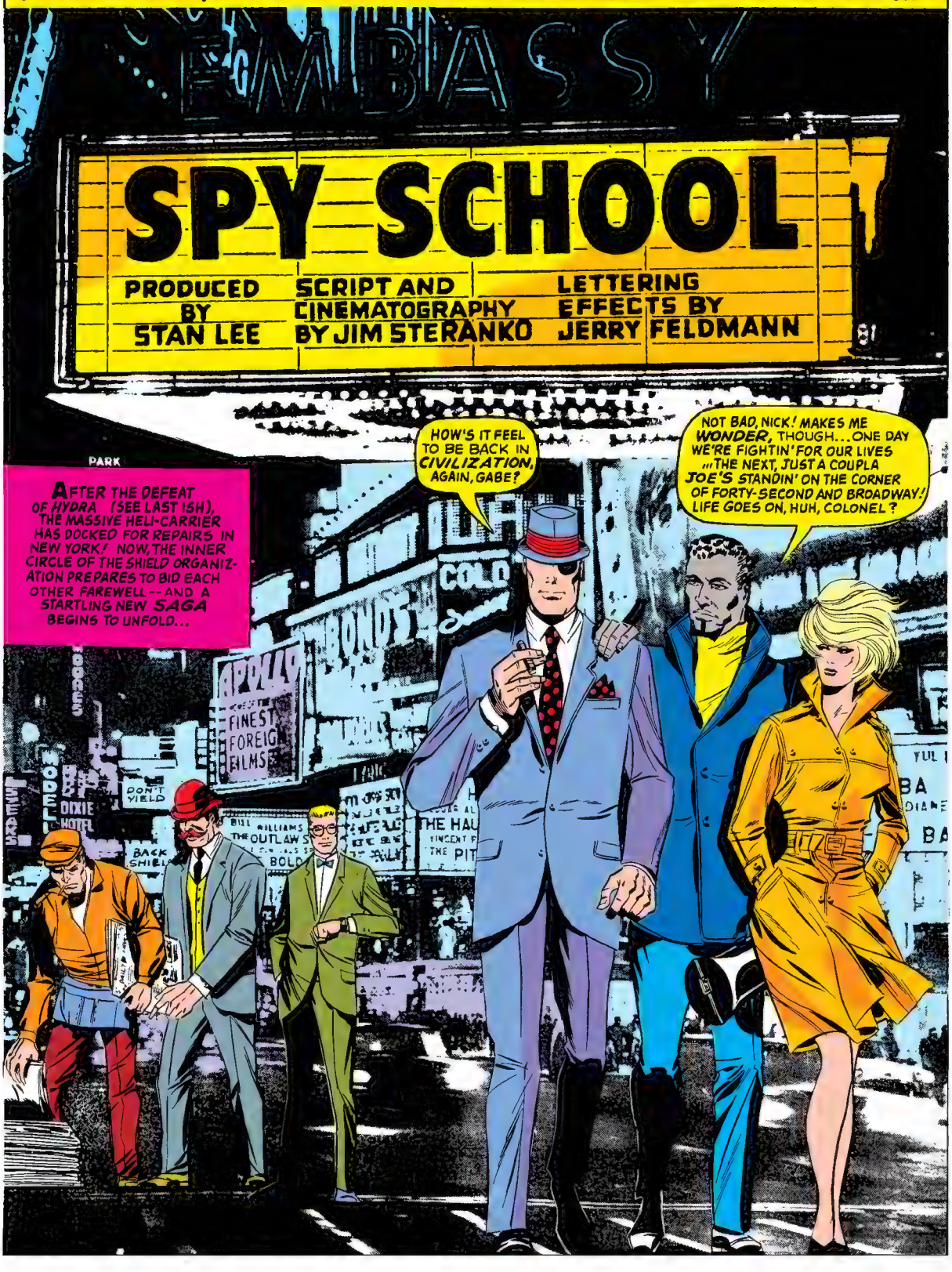

WELL, MAYBE WE'LL SEE THE DAY WHEN MEN LIKE THOSE AN' THEIR DEEDS WILL BE ONLY THINGS OF THE PAST!
BUT 'TIL THEN, SHIELD WON'T QUIT, AS LONG AS THERE'S ONE WOULD-BE CONQUEROR WHO THINKS HE CAN LORD IT OVER EVERYBODY ELSE!
AS DUGAN WOULD SAY--"YER ALL HEART, FURY! YER ALL HEART!"
AN' THAT'S A PROMISE!

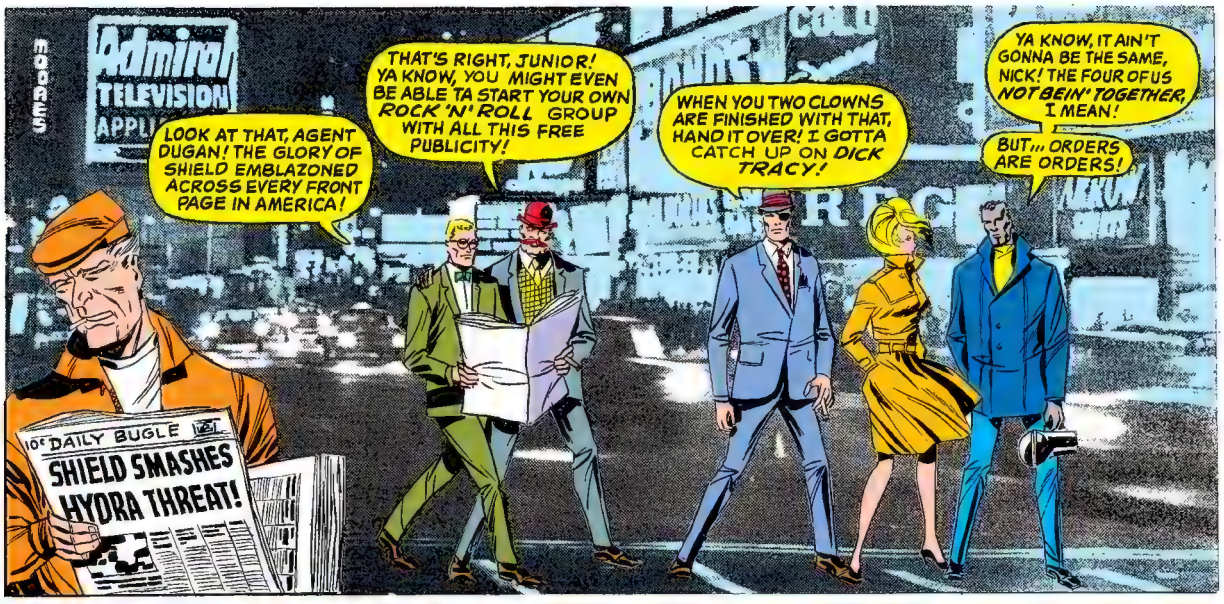

...NICK... LOOK! THE SUN IS COMING UP... FILLING THE EARTH WITH NEW LIFE... AND NEW HOPE!
NEXT: "SPY SCHOOL!"

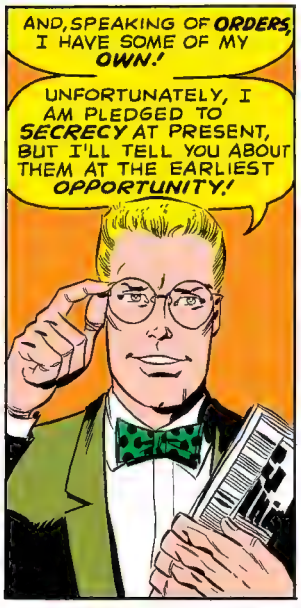
STRANGE TALES
NICK FURY, AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D.
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
DOCTOR STRANGE
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
12¢ IND.
159 AUG
FEATURING: THE GREAT CAPTAIN AMERICA!
STERANKO

# NICK FURY, AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D.!

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS INTERNATIONAL ESPIONAGE LAW-ENFORCEMENT DIVISION


EMBASSY
SPY SCHOOL
PRODUCED BY STAN LEE
SCRIPT AND CINEMATOGRAPHY BY JIM STERANKO
LETTERING EFFECTS BY JERRY FELDMANN
PARK
AFTER THE DEFEAT OF HYDRA (SEE LAST ISH), THE MASSIVE HELI-CARRIER HAS DOCKED FOR REPAIRS IN NEW YORK! NOW, THE INNER CIRCLE OF THE SHIELD ORGANIZATION PREPARES TO BID EACH OTHER FAREWELL--AND A STARTLING NEW SAGA BEGINS TO UNFOLD...
HOW'S IT FEEL TO BE BACK IN CIVILIZATION, AGAIN, GABE?
NOT BAD, NICK! MAKES ME WONDER, THOUGH...ONE DAY WE'RE FIGHTIN' FOR OUR LIVES ...THE NEXT, JUST A COUPLA JOE'S STANDIN' ON THE CORNER OF FORTY-SECOND AND BROADWAY! LIFE GOES ON, HUH, COLONEL?
APOLLO
FINEST FOREIGN FILMS
BONDS
COLD
DIXIE MOTEL
DON'T YIELD
BOOKS


EDGES
Admiral TELEVISION
APPLI
LOOK AT THAT, AGENT DUGAN! THE GLORY OF SHIELD EMBLAZONED ACROSS EVERY FRONT PAGE IN AMERICA!
THAT'S RIGHT, JUNIOR! YA KNOW, YOU MIGHT EVEN BE ABLE TA START YOUR OWN ROCK 'N' ROLL GROUP WITH ALL THIS FREE PUBLICITY!
WHEN YOU TWO CLOWNS ARE FINISHED WITH THAT, HAND IT OVER! I GOTTA CATCH UP ON DICK TRACY!
YA KNOW, IT AIN'T GONNA BE THE SAME, NICK! THE FOUR OF US NOT BEIN' TOGETHER, I MEAN!
BUT... ORDERS ARE ORDERS!
10¢ DAILY BUGLE
SHIELD SMASHES HYDRA THREAT!


AND, SPEAKING OF ORDERS, I HAVE SOME OF MY OWN!
UNFORTUNATELY, I AM PLEDGED TO SECRECY AT PRESENT, BUT I'LL TELL YOU ABOUT THEM AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY!

AS FOR ME, I'LL BE DOIN' WHAT I DO BEST... AN' THAT'S BLOWIN' THIS HERE HORN! GOT A GIG DOWN IN THE VILLAGE, AN' I GOTTA ADMIT IT'S GONNA BE A GROOVE DOIN' UNDERCOVER WORK RIGHT IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD! DIG?

JUST MAKE SURE AN' KEEP YER EYES AND EARS OPEN, PAL! THE ENEMY COULD BE JUST ABOUT ANYWHERE... EVEN UNDER A BONGO DRUM, HEAR? HOW ABOUT YOU, DUGAN?

I'VE GOT A LEAVE OF ABSENCE COMIN, SO I'M GOIN' BACK TA SEE M OL' HOME IN BOSTON! NOW, YOU BOZOS WILL HAVE TA KEEP YOUR NOSES CLEAN 'TIL DUM DUM DUGAN GETS BACK TA BAIL YA OUT!

OKAY, YA BUNCH'A GOLDBRICKS... DON'T FORGET OL' NICK FURY'S NEVER TOO FAR AWAY!
WELL... TAKE CARE, ALL!
'TILL WE MEET AGAIN!
GOD BE WILLING!

THEN, THE SHIELD STALWARTS DEPART IN DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS... EACH WITH SEPARATE DESTINATIONS... YET PERHAPS THINKING THE VERY SAME THOUGHTS!

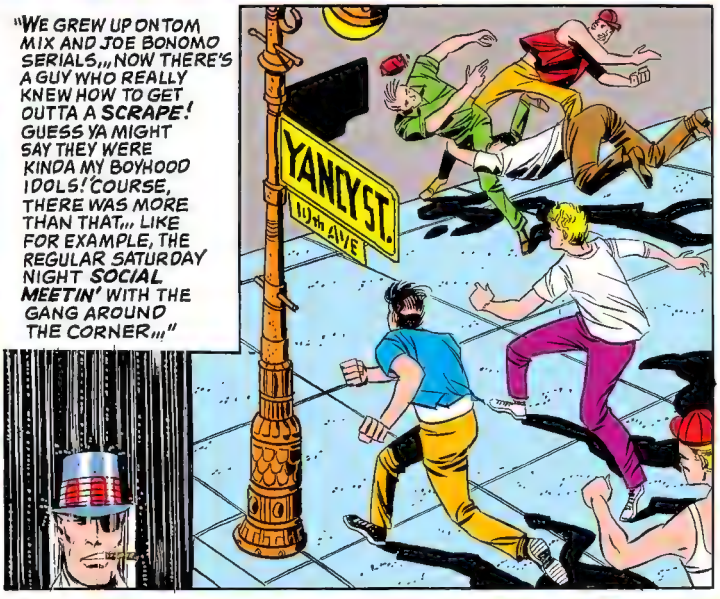
C'MON, LET'S GET OUTTA HERE! SO MANY SPY MOVIES PLAYIN' ON THIS BLOCK, I'M BEGINNING TA FEEL RIGHT AT HOME! 'SIDES, WE GOTTA MAKE IT OVER TA SHIELD HQ ANYWAY!

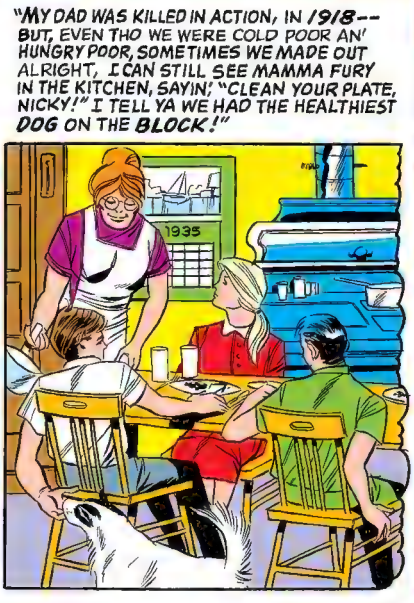
GABE WAS RIGHT! IT'S GOOD TO GET YOUR FEET BACK ON THE GROUND! HOW ABOUT DOING A GIRL A FAVOR? LET'S GO FOR A LITTLE WALK... DO YOU MIND?
STARTIN' TA RAIN, YA KNOW!
IT'S ALL RIGHT! I LOVE THE RAIN! ...IT MAKES EVERYTHING CLEAN AGAIN!

THEN, STEP RIGHT THIS WAY AN' OL' NICK FURY'LL GIVE YOU THE FIFTY-CENT TOUR! YA SEE, THIS IS THE STREET I GREW UP ON... WHEN I WAS A KID THEY CALLED IT HELL'S KITCHEN!
NOW IT'S ONLY A STONE'S THROW TO LINCOLN CENTER!

"YEAH, THINGS WERE ROUGH FOR US THEN, BUT WE STILL HAD PLENTY OF FUN! YA KNOW, WHEN YER A KID, YA DON'T MIND THINGS AS MUCH! I REMEMBER A LITTLE MUTT I USED TA HAVE... JUST A LITTLE FELLA, BUT I WOULDN'TA SWAPPED HIM FOR A DOZEN RIN-TIN-TINS!"

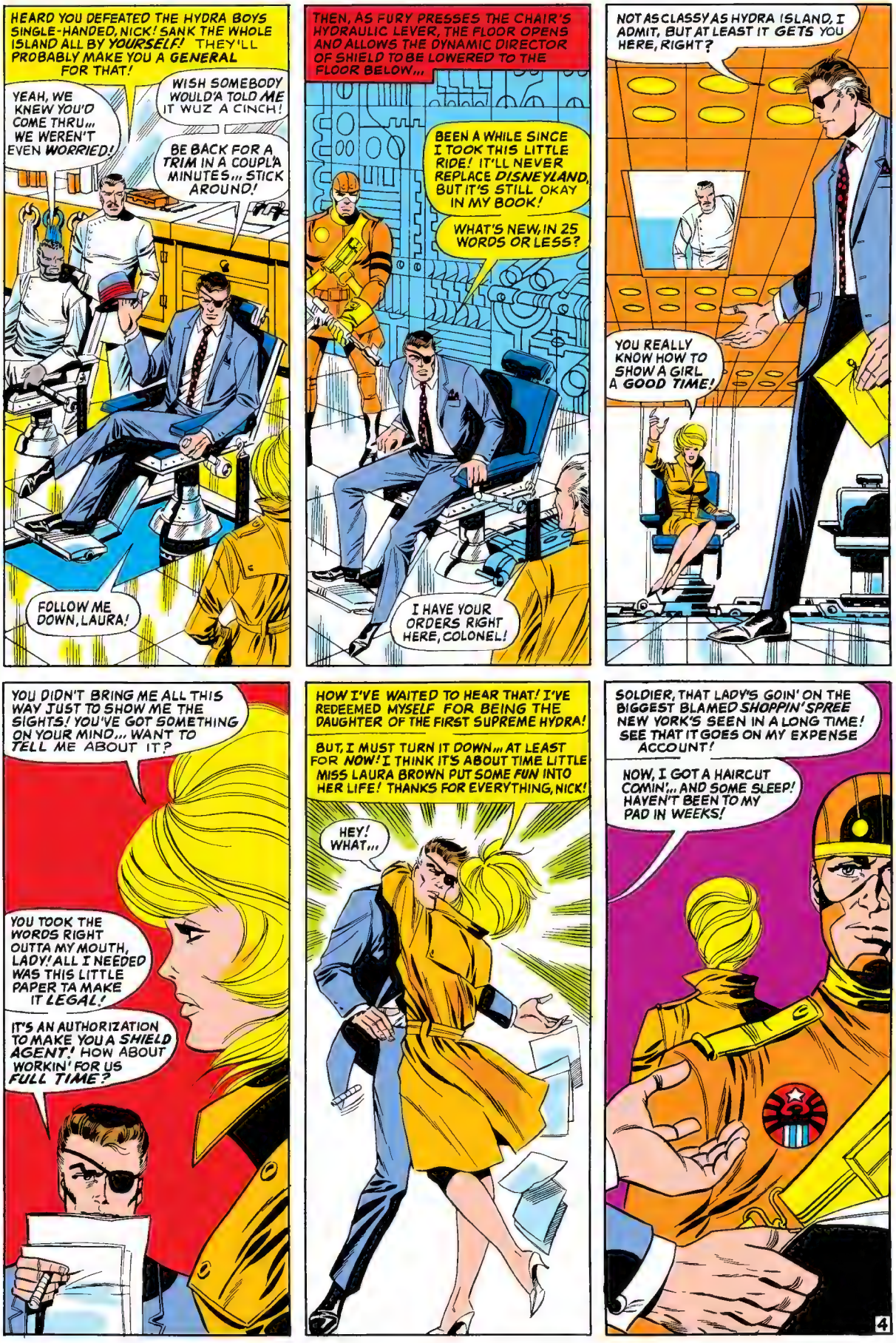
"ALL WEEK, THE GUYS WOULD SEARCH THE NEIGHBORHOOD, COLLECTIN' OLD BOTTLES WE COULD CASH IN, SO'S WE COULD GO TO THE SATURDAY MATINEE... YA SEE, THE TALKIES WERE JUST COMIN' IN..."
Tom MIX Tony
GLAMOROUS! THRILLING! SPECTACULAR!
World's Supreme Outdoors Star

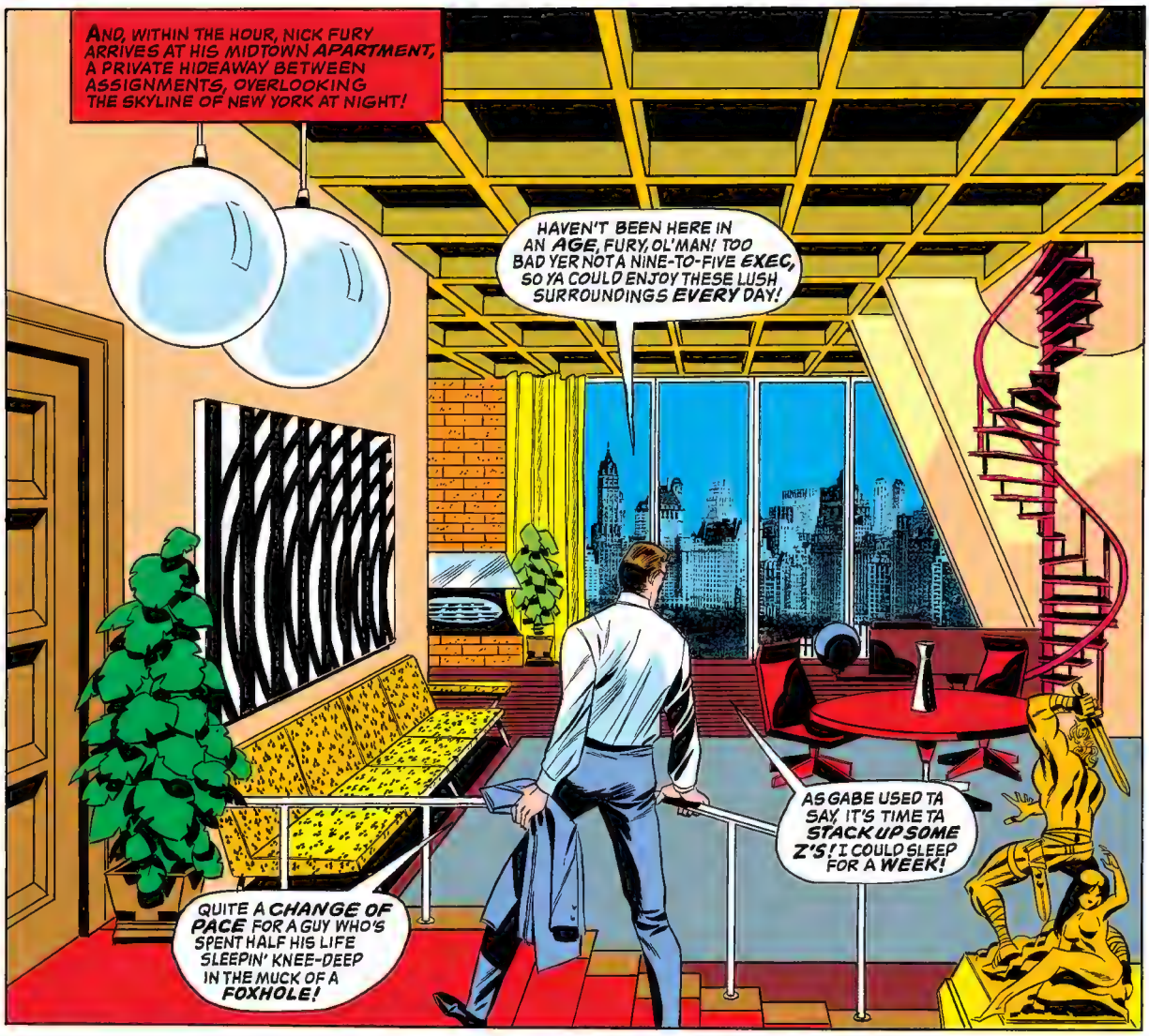

"WE GREW UP ON TOM MIX AND JOE BONOMO SERIALS... NOW THERE'S A GUY WHO REALLY KNEW HOW TO GET OUTTA A SCRAPE! GUESS YA MIGHT SAY THEY WERE KINDA MY BOYHOOD IDOLS! 'COURSE, THERE WAS MORE THAN THAT... LIKE FOR EXAMPLE, THE REGULAR SATURDAY NIGHT SOCIAL MEETIN' WITH THE GANG AROUND THE CORNER..."
YANLY ST.
11th AVE


"MY DAD WAS KILLED IN ACTION, IN 1918-- BUT, EVEN THO WE WERE COLD POOR AN' HUNGRY POOR, SOMETIMES WE MADE OUT ALRIGHT. I CAN STILL SEE MAMMA FURY IN THE KITCHEN, SAYIN,' "CLEAN YOUR PLATE, NICKY!" I TELL YA WE HAD THE HEALTHIEST DOG ON THE BLOCK!"
1935

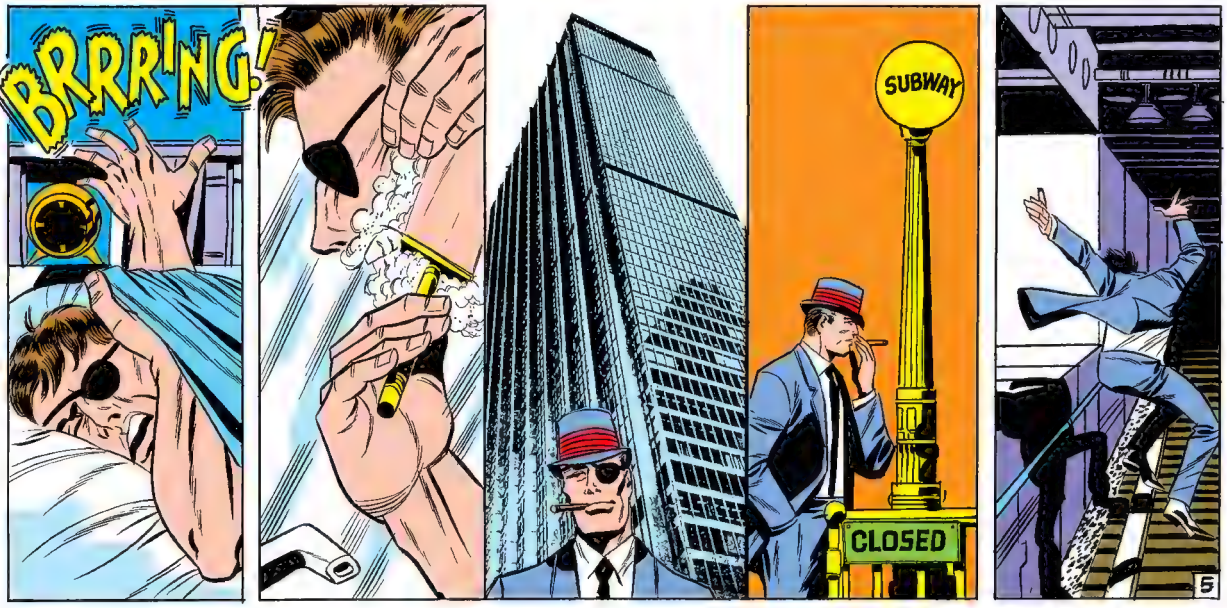
SO THAT'S WHAT MAKES A NICK FURY... I'LL KEEP IT IN MIND!
Y'KNOW, SOMETIMES I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED TO THE REST OF THE KIDS I GREW UP WITH! I GUESS IT'S LIKE THEY SHOW IN THE MOVIES... SOME GOOD GUYS... SOME BAD!
WELL, HERE WE ARE!

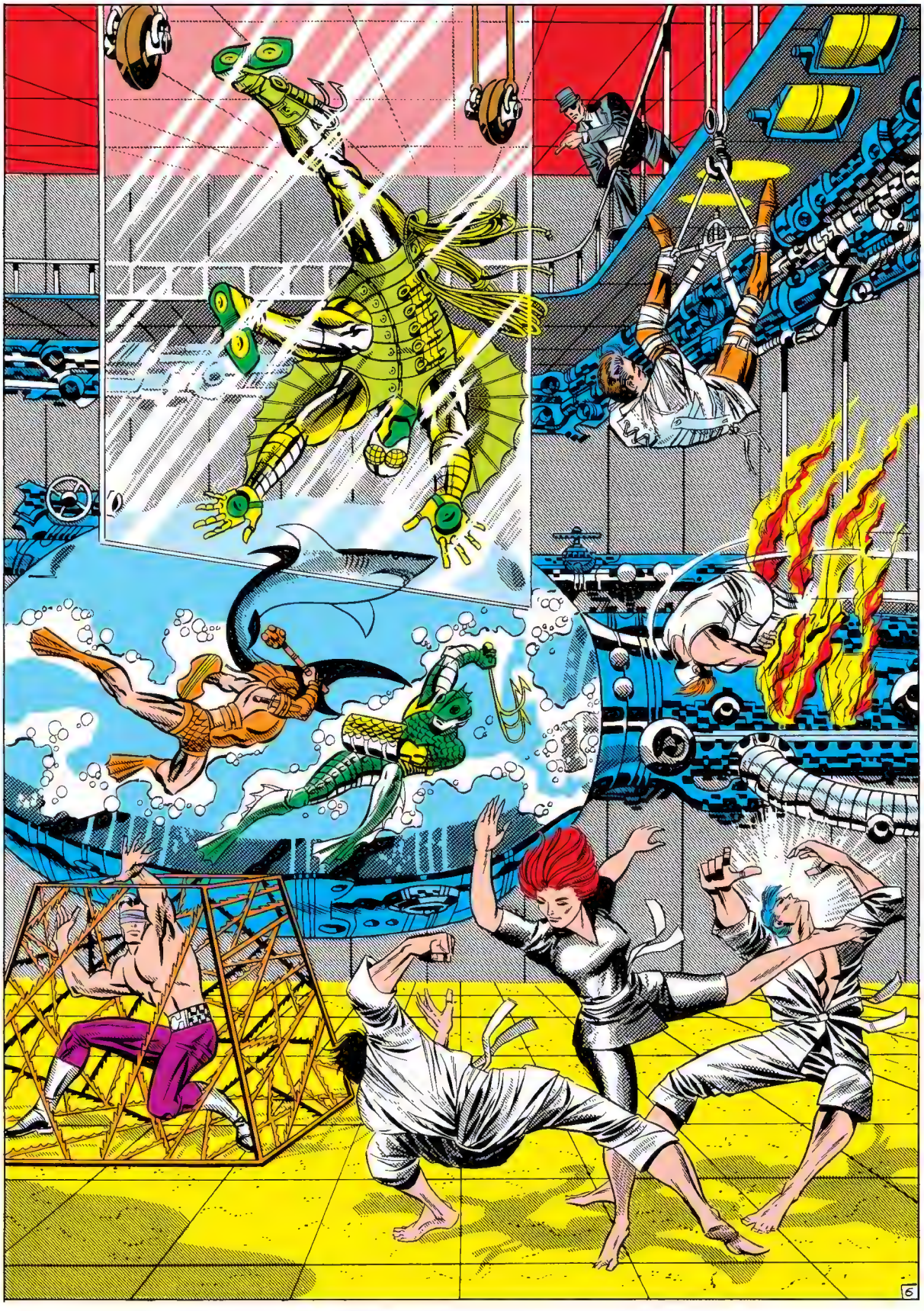
WHAT'S A GUY GOTTA DO TA GET A SHAVE AN' A SHINE AROUND THIS JOINT?
HEY!! IT'S THE MAN HIMSELF!
SHOE POLISH
3

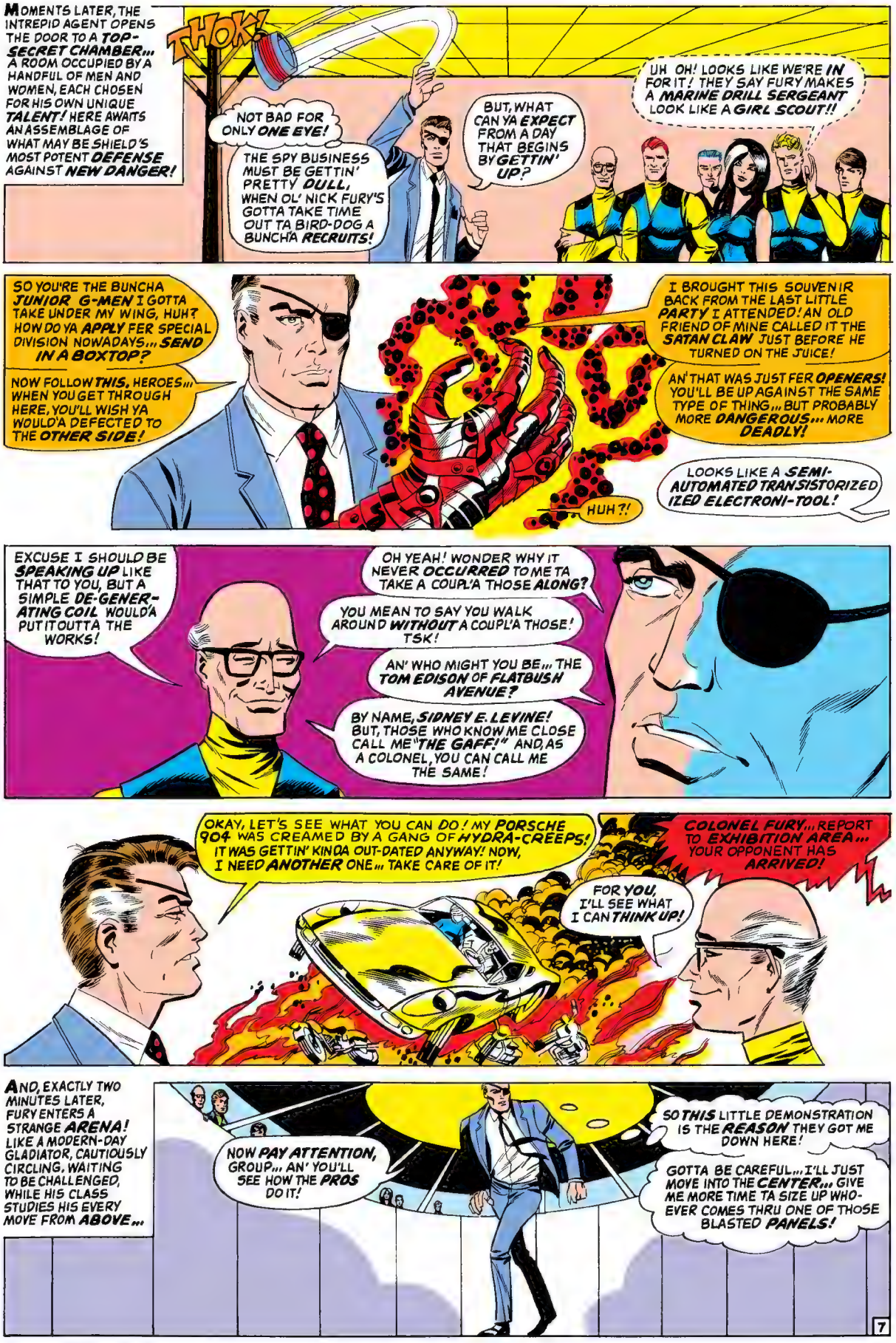

HEARD YOU DEFEATED THE HYDRA BOYS SINGLE-HANDED, NICK! SANK THE WHOLE ISLAND ALL BY YOURSELF! THEY'LL PROBABLY MAKE YOU A GENERAL FOR THAT!
YEAH, WE KNEW YOU'D COME THRU... WE WEREN'T EVEN WORRIED!
WISH SOMEBODY WOULD'A TOLD ME IT WUZ A CINCH!
BE BACK FOR A TRIM IN A COUPLA MINUTES... STICK AROUND!
FOLLOW ME DOWN, LAURA!
THEN, AS FURY PRESSES THE CHAIR'S HYDRAULIC LEVER, THE FLOOR OPENS AND ALLOWS THE DYNAMIC DIRECTOR OF SHIELD TO BE LOWERED TO THE FLOOR BELOW...
BEEN A WHILE SINCE I TOOK THIS LITTLE RIDE! IT'LL NEVER REPLACE DISNEYLAND, BUT IT'S STILL OKAY IN MY BOOK!
WHAT'S NEW, IN 25 WORDS OR LESS?
I HAVE YOUR ORDERS RIGHT HERE, COLONEL!
NOT AS CLASSY AS HYDRA ISLAND, I ADMIT, BUT AT LEAST IT GETS YOU HERE, RIGHT?
YOU REALLY KNOW HOW TO SHOW A GIRL A GOOD TIME!
YOU DIDN'T BRING ME ALL THIS WAY JUST TO SHOW ME THE SIGHTS! YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING ON YOUR MIND... WANT TO TELL ME ABOUT IT?
YOU TOOK THE WORDS RIGHT OUTTA MY MOUTH, LADY! ALL I NEEDED WAS THIS LITTLE PAPER TA MAKE IT LEGAL!
IT'S AN AUTHORIZATION TO MAKE YOU A SHIELD AGENT! HOW ABOUT WORKIN' FOR US FULL TIME?
HOW I'VE WAITED TO HEAR THAT! I'VE REDEEMED MYSELF FOR BEING THE DAUGHTER OF THE FIRST SUPREME HYDRA!
BUT, I MUST TURN IT DOWN... AT LEAST FOR NOW! I THINK IT'S ABOUT TIME LITTLE MISS LAURA BROWN PUT SOME FUN INTO HER LIFE! THANKS FOR EVERYTHING, NICK!
HEY! WHAT...
SOLDIER, THAT LADY'S GOIN' ON THE BIGGEST BLAMED SHOPPIN' SPREE NEW YORK'S SEEN IN A LONG TIME! SEE THAT IT GOES ON MY EXPENSE ACCOUNT!
NOW, I GOT A HAIRCUT COMIN'... AND SOME SLEEP! HAVEN'T BEEN TO MY PAD IN WEEKS!
4


AND, WITHIN THE HOUR, NICK FURY ARRIVES AT HIS MIDTOWN APARTMENT, A PRIVATE HIDEAWAY BETWEEN ASSIGNMENTS, OVERLOOKING THE SKYLINE OF NEW YORK AT NIGHT!
HAVEN'T BEEN HERE IN AN AGE, FURY, OL'MAN! TOO BAD YER NOT A NINE-TO-FIVE EXEC, SO YA COULD ENJOY THESE LUSH SURROUNDINGS EVERY DAY!
AS GABE USED TA SAY, IT'S TIME TA STACK UP SOME Z'S! I COULD SLEEP FOR A WEEK!
QUITE A CHANGE OF PACE FOR A GUY WHO'S SPENT HALF HIS LIFE SLEEPIN' KNEE-DEEP IN THE MUCK OF A FOXHOLE!

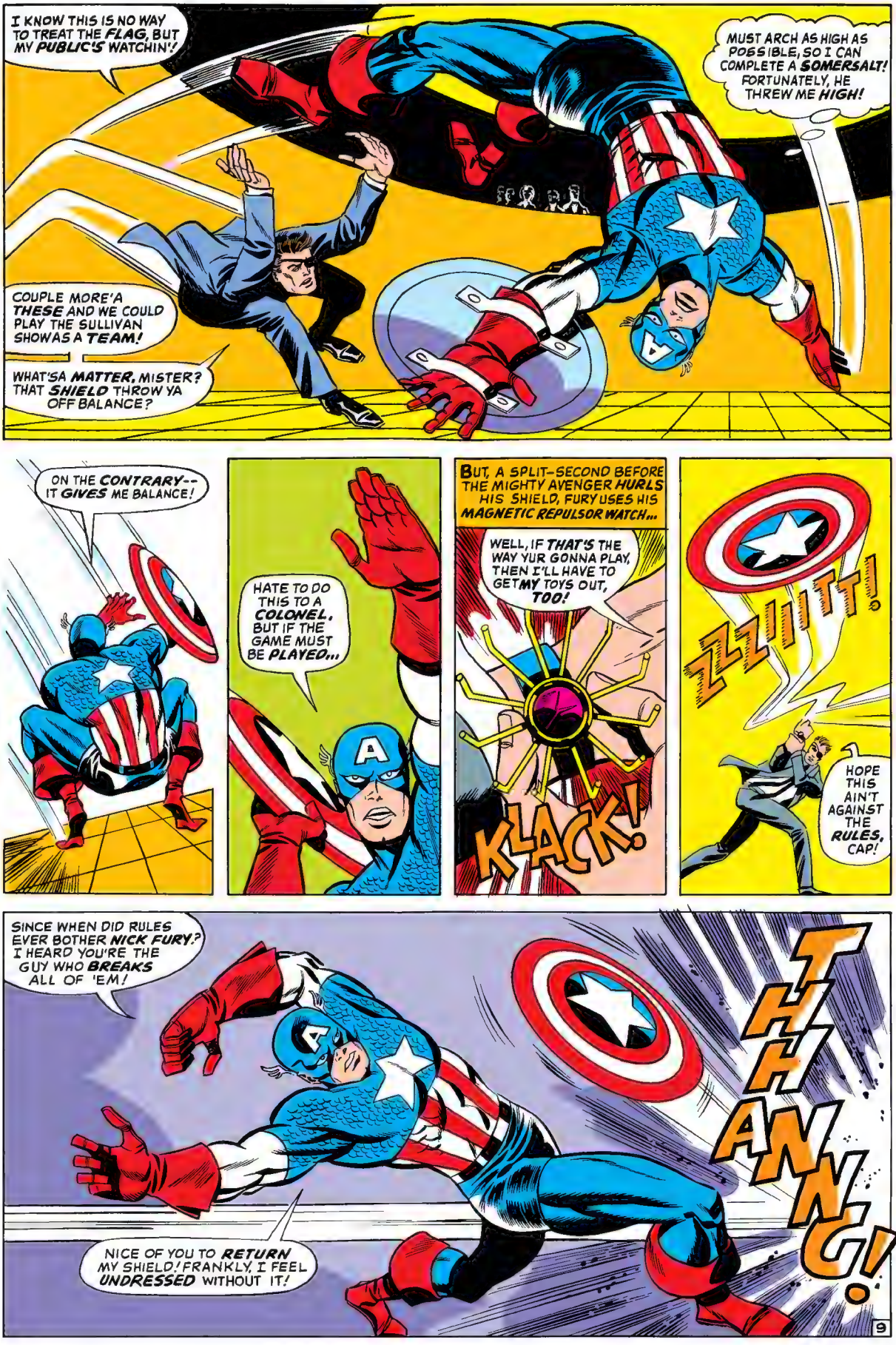
THEN, JUST LIKE ANY NINE-TO-FIVE EXECUTIVE, FURY HITS THE SACK, TRYING TO CATCH UP ON THE ENDLESS NIGHTS OF REST MISSED --IN INTERMINABLE OPPOSITION AGAINST SUPER-CRIMINALS WITH SUPER-WEAPONS! BUT, MORNING COMES ALL TOO SOON FOR THE INDESTRUCTABLE AGENT, WHO DISCOVERS JUST HOW HABIT-FORMING A SOFT BED CAN BE! AND SO, AFTER A QUICK SHOWER AND SHAVE, FURY HEADS FOR UNIT... SHIELD'S SPECIAL UNDERGROUND NETWORK INTELLIGENCE TRAINING ACADEMY, NEVER KNOWING THAT ONE OF THE MOST DANGEROUS AND FANTASTIC ENCOUNTERS OF HIS LIFE IS ABOUT TO UNFOLD!



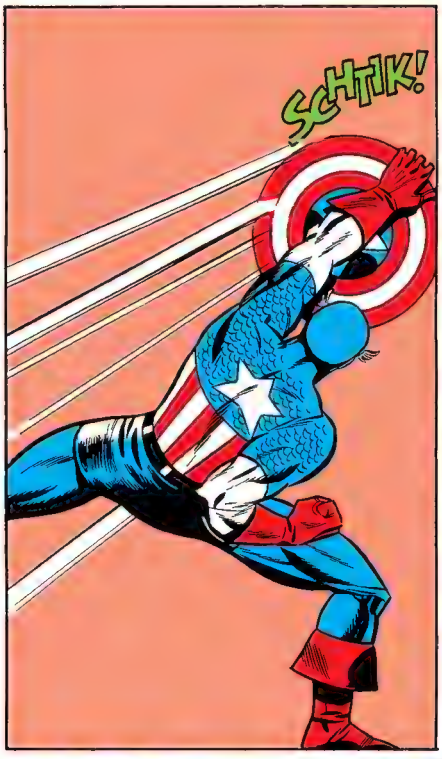

THEN, AFTER ENTERING UNIT'S TUNNEL LABYRINTH, FURY PROCEEDS TO HIS DESTINATION, PASSING THROUGH THE VERY HEART OF SHIELD'S ADVANCED ULTRA-TRAINING CENTER... WHERE EVERY MANNER OF KNOWN COMBAT IS TAUGHT, EVERY SHAPE AND SIZE OF WEAPON BROUGHT INTO PLAY, WHERE EVERY CONCEIVABLE HAZARD IS ENCOUNTERED BY AGENTS SWORN TO SERVE IN THEIR COUNTRY'S DEFENSE!
6


MOMENTS LATER, THE INTREPID AGENT OPENS THE DOOR TO A TOP-SECRET CHAMBER... A ROOM OCCUPIED BY A HANDFUL OF MEN AND WOMEN, EACH CHOSEN FOR HIS OWN UNIQUE TALENT! HERE AWAITS AN ASSEMBLAGE OF WHAT MAY BE SHIELD'S MOST POTENT DEFENSE AGAINST NEW DANGER!
THOK!
NOT BAD FOR ONLY ONE EYE!
THE SPY BUSINESS MUST BE GETTIN' PRETTY DULL, WHEN OL' NICK FURY'S GOTTA TAKE TIME OUT TA BIRD-DOG A BUNCHA RECRUITS!
BUT, WHAT CAN YA EXPECT FROM A DAY THAT BEGINS BY GETTIN' UP?
UH OH! LOOKS LIKE WE'RE IN FOR IT! THEY SAY FURY MAKES A MARINE DRILL SERGEANT LOOK LIKE A GIRL SCOUT!!
SO YOU'RE THE BUNCHA JUNIOR G-MEN I GOTTA TAKE UNDER MY WING, HUH? HOW DO YA APPLY FER SPECIAL DIVISION NOWADAYS... SEND IN A BOXTOP?
NOW FOLLOW THIS, HEROES... WHEN YOU GET THROUGH HERE, YOU'LL WISH YA WOULD'A DEFECTED TO THE OTHER SIDE!
I BROUGHT THIS SOUVENIR BACK FROM THE LAST LITTLE PARTY I ATTENDED! AN OLD FRIEND OF MINE CALLED IT THE SATAN CLAW JUST BEFORE HE TURNED ON THE JUICE!
AN' THAT WAS JUST FER OPENERS! YOU'LL BE UP AGAINST THE SAME TYPE OF THING... BUT PROBABLY MORE DANGEROUS... MORE DEADLY!
HUH?!
LOOKS LIKE A SEMI-AUTOMATED TRANSISTORIZED IZED ELECTRONI-TOOL!
EXCUSE I SHOULD BE SPEAKING UP LIKE THAT TO YOU, BUT A SIMPLE DE-GENER-ATING COIL WOULD'A PUT IT OUTTA THE WORKS!
OH YEAH! WONDER WHY IT NEVER OCCURRED TO ME TA TAKE A COUPL'A THOSE ALONG?
YOU MEAN TO SAY YOU WALK AROUND WITHOUT A COUPL'A THOSE! TSK!
AN' WHO MIGHT YOU BE... THE TOM EDISON OF FLATBUSH AVENUE?
BY NAME, SIDNEY E. LEVINE! BUT, THOSE WHO KNOW ME CLOSE CALL ME "THE GAFF!" AND, AS A COLONEL, YOU CAN CALL ME THE SAME!
OKAY, LET'S SEE WHAT YOU CAN DO! MY PORSCHE 904 WAS CREAMED BY A GANG OF HYDRA-CREEPS! IT WAS GETTIN' KINDA OUT-DATED ANYWAY! NOW, I NEED ANOTHER ONE... TAKE CARE OF IT!
COLONEL FURY... REPORT TO EXHIBITION AREA... YOUR OPPONENT HAS ARRIVED!
FOR YOU, I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN THINK UP!
AND, EXACTLY TWO MINUTES LATER, FURY ENTERS A STRANGE ARENA! LIKE A MODERN-DAY GLADIATOR, CAUTIOUSLY CIRCLING, WAITING TO BE CHALLENGED, WHILE HIS CLASS STUDIES HIS EVERY MOVE FROM ABOVE...
NOW PAY ATTENTION, GROUP... AN' YOU'LL SEE HOW THE PROS DO IT!
SO THIS LITTLE DEMONSTRATION IS THE REASON THEY GOT ME DOWN HERE!
GOTTA BE CAREFUL... I'LL JUST MOVE INTO THE CENTER... GIVE ME MORE TIME TA SIZE UP WHO-EVER COMES THRU ONE OF THOSE BLASTED PANELS!

HEY! WHAT IN SAM HILL...?
YOU! I SHOULDA KNOWN! COMIN' OUT OF A BLAMED FLOOR TRAP... AN' I STEPPED RIGHT ON IT! NICE GOIN'! FURY!
COULDN'T HAVE WORKED OUT BETTER IF WE'D REHEARSED IT, OLD FRIEND!
ZZZIPP!
HAVEN'T SEEN YOU SINCE WE POLISHED OFF THEM'S HUMANOID ASSASSIN!*
YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN READY FOR THAT ONE, COLONEL!
SO WHO SAYS I WASN'T... WOOOF!
*IN TALES OF SUSPENSE #78! --SECRET-AGENT STAN.
FIRST POINT TO YOU, CAP! YA CAUGHT ME OFF GUARD COMIN' IN THAT WAY! MAYBE I CAN RETURN THE FAVOR!
LOOK AT THAT... HE'S AS AGILE AS A PANTHER! AND I WAS GOING TO TAKE IT EASY ON HIM!
HE'S MOVING LIKE HE ALREADY HAS A PLAN IN MIND!
THAT CIGAR HE TOSSED... EXPLODED ON IMPACT... SOME KIND OF GAS ESCAPING... CAN'T BE TOO DANGEROUS... FURY'S TOO CLOSE!
THIS $CO_2$ CIGAR WON'T STOP HIM, BUT I GOT OTHER PLANS FOR IT!
FFSSUT!
HEADS UP, MASKED MAN! 'BOUT TIME TO SHOW THOSE KIDS SOME STRATEGIC IN-FIGHTIN', WOULDN'T YA SAY!
FURY'S TAKING THE OFFENSIVE NOW! TALK ABOUT QUICK THINKING!
THAT CIGAR... JUST A DECOY TO SET ME UP FOR HIS METHOD OF ATTACK!
YA MIGHT CALL THIS A TWO-CUSHION SHOT, PAL! LOOKS LIKE THE TIME I SPENT AT THE POOL TABLE IS FINALLY PAYIN' OFF, HUH?
WUMP!
HE'S BOUNCING OFF THE WALLS... COMING IN BEHIND ME!


I KNOW THIS IS NO WAY TO TREAT THE FLAG, BUT MY PUBLIC'S WATCHIN'!
MUST ARCH AS HIGH AS POSSIBLE, SO I CAN COMPLETE A SOMERSALT! FORTUNATELY, HE THREW ME HIGH!
COUPLE MORE'A THESE AND WE COULD PLAY THE SULLIVAN SHOWAS A TEAM!
WHAT'SA MATTER, MISTER? THAT SHIELD THROW YA OFF BALANCE?
ON THE CONTRARY-- IT GIVES ME BALANCE!
HATE TO DO THIS TO A COLONEL, BUT IF THE GAME MUST BE PLAYED...
BUT, A SPLIT-SECOND BEFORE THE MIGHTY AVENGER HURLS HIS SHIELD, FURY USES HIS MAGNETIC REPULSOR WATCH...
WELL, IF THAT'S THE WAY YUR GONNA PLAY, THEN I'LL HAVE TO GET MY TOYS OUT, TOO!
KLACK!
ZZZIIITT!
HOPE THIS AIN'T AGAINST THE RULES, CAP!
SINCE WHEN DID RULES EVER BOTHER NICK FURY,? I HEARD YOU'RE THE GUY WHO BREAKS ALL OF 'EM!
NICE OF YOU TO RETURN MY SHIELD! FRANKLY, I FEEL UNDRESSED WITHOUT IT!
THHANNG!

THEN, WITH SPEED THE EYE CAN BARELY FOLLOW, THE **RED-WHITE-AND-BLUE AVENGER** LUNGES FORWARD AND MAKES A DAZZLING MID-AIR **CATCH**-- A FEAT SO ASTONISHINGLY PERFECT THAT EVEN THE IMPLACABLE **NICK FURY** MOMENTARILY PAUSES IN ADMIRATION...

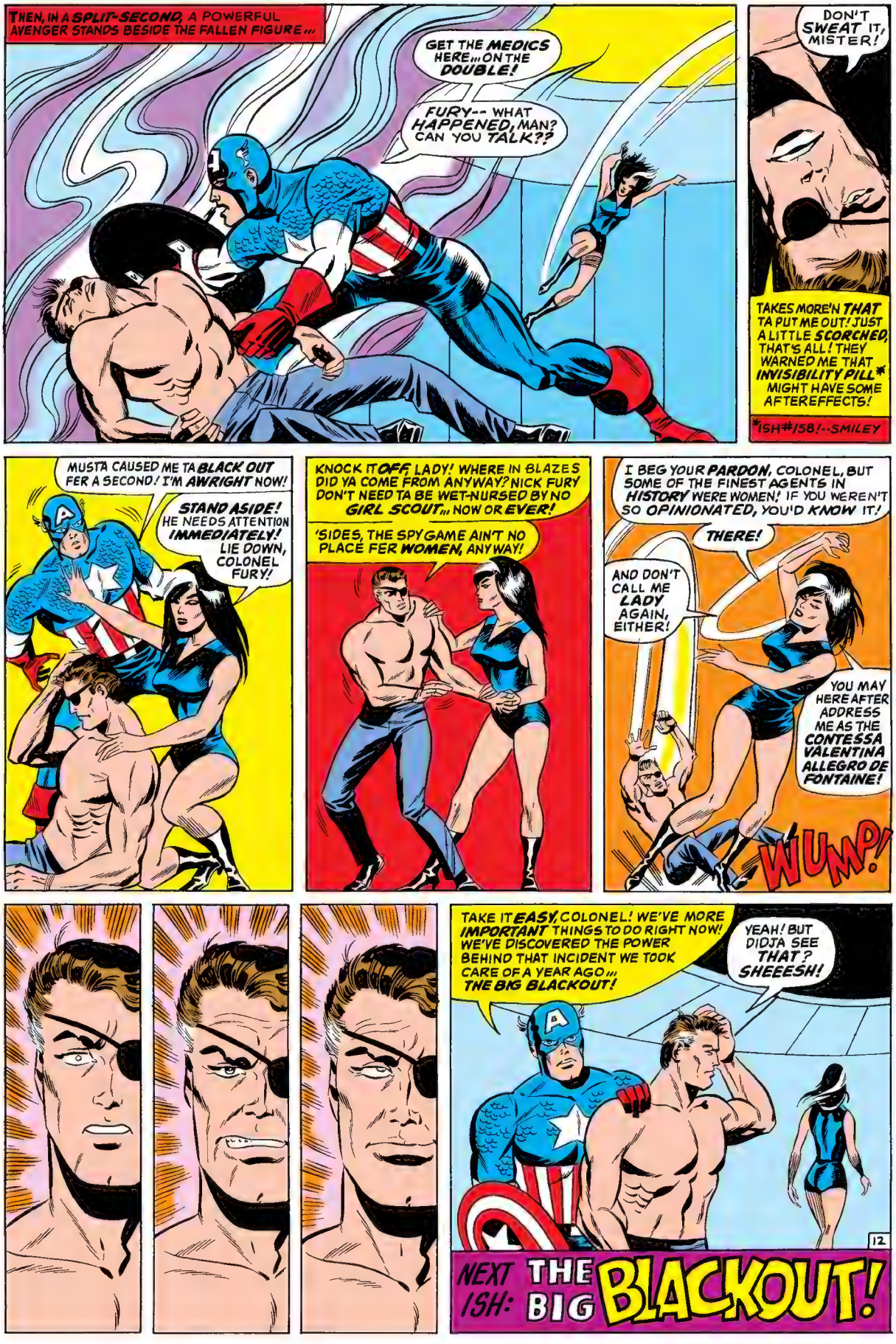


WHOEVER HAD THE IDEA FOR THIS **DEMONSTRATION** MUST HAVE WONDERED ABOUT ITS INEVITABLE **OUTCOME!**
GOTTA ADMIT, I THOUGHT ABOUT IT **MYSELF** ONCE OR TWICE, CAP!
I DON'T MEAN TO TAKE **ADVANTAGE** COLONEL, BUT TRY TO TACKLE THIS **WITHOUT** ONE OF YOUR GADGETS!

THTANG!
PLANG!
**SIMPLE**--IF YA KNOW HOW, PAL! ALL IT TAKES IS TWENTY YEARS **PRACTICE!**
GOTTA **HAND** IT TO YA, THOUGH! FER A GUY WHO WEARS A **CORNY COSTUME**, YOU CAN KEEP A GUY ON HIS TOES WITHOUT HALF **TRYIN'!**

HE'S EVEN BETTER THAN I **THOUGHT!** SMALL WONDER THEY MADE HIM TOP MAN AT **SHIELD!**
I SEE NOW HOW HE COULD TAKE ON **HYDRA ISLAND** ALL ALONE... AND **WIN!!**
SWOOSH!

GUESS IT'S ABOUT TIME I PULLED ANOTHER TRICK OUT OF THE FURY GRAB BAG!
SEE WHAT'CHA CAN DO WITH THIS INCENDIARY CIGAR, MISTER!
PONG!
SO, NOW YOU KNOW!
UHHHH! LOOKS LIKE THIS ONE'S ON ME!
HOPE THIS BULLET-PROOF JACKET'S TOUGH ENOUGH TO TAKE THE BLAST!
THA KUMP!
WELL, COLONEL, LOOKS LIKE IT'S A MEXICAN STANDOFF!
YOU SAID IT, NOT ME, CHUM! BUT, WHY BUST UP THE PARTY NOW?!
I WAS JUST GETTIN' WARMED UP!
BY THE WAY, DID I EVER SHOW YOU HOW THIS HIGH EXPLOSIVE SHIRT WORKS?
JUST EXPOSE IT TO HEAT AN' COUNT THREE BEFORE THE FIREWORKS BEGIN!
ONE!
TWO!
THR...!
FRACK!


THEN, IN A SPLIT-SECOND, A POWERFUL AVENGER STANDS BESIDE THE FALLEN FIGURE...
GET THE MEDICS HERE... ON THE DOUBLE!
FURY-- WHAT HAPPENED, MAN? CAN YOU TALK??
DON'T SWEAT IT, MISTER!
TAKES MORE'N THAT TA PUT ME OUT! JUST A LITTLE SCORCHED, THAT'S ALL! THEY WARNED ME THAT INVISIBILITY PILL* MIGHT HAVE SOME AFTEREFFECTS!
*ISH #158!--SMILEY
MUSTA CAUSED ME TA BLACK OUT FER A SECOND! I'M AWRIGHT NOW!
STAND ASIDE! HE NEEDS ATTENTION IMMEDIATELY! LIE DOWN, COLONEL FURY!
KNOCK IT OFF, LADY! WHERE IN BLAZES DID YA COME FROM ANYWAY? NICK FURY DON'T NEED TA BE WET-NURSED BY NO GIRL SCOUT... NOW OR EVER!
'SIDES, THE SPY GAME AIN'T NO PLACE FER WOMEN, ANYWAY!
I BEG YOUR PARDON, COLONEL, BUT SOME OF THE FINEST AGENTS IN HISTORY WERE WOMEN! IF YOU WEREN'T SO OPINIONATED, YOU'D KNOW IT!
THERE!
AND DON'T CALL ME LADY AGAIN, EITHER!
YOU MAY HERE AFTER ADDRESS ME AS THE CONTESSA VALENTINA ALLEGRO DE FONTAINE!
WUMP!
TAKE IT EASY, COLONEL! WE'VE MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO DO RIGHT NOW! WE'VE DISCOVERED THE POWER BEHIND THAT INCIDENT WE TOOK CARE OF A YEAR AGO... THE BIG BLACKOUT!
YEAH! BUT DIDJA SEE THAT? SHEEESH!
12
NEXT ISH: THE BIG BLACKOUT!

NICK FURY / AGENT OF S·H·I·E·L·D.™
SUPREME HEADQUARTERS, INTERNATIONAL
ESPIONAGE LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION.

# BLACKOUT

CONFIDENTIAL

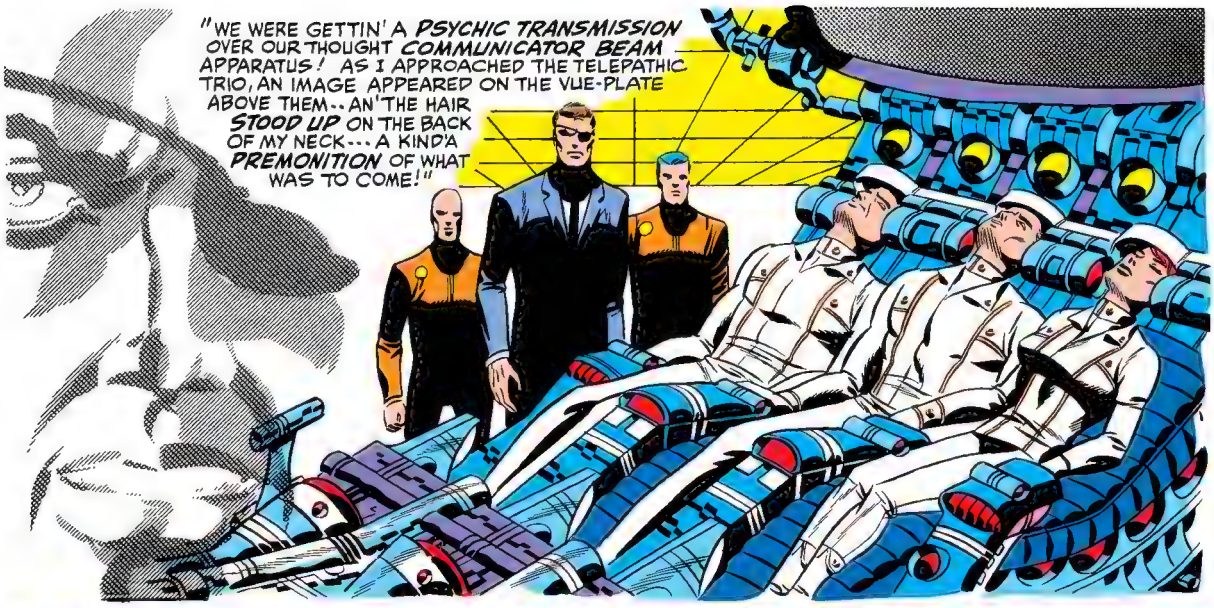
TOP SECRET...CLASSIFIED INFORMATION...
PRIORITY A-1

DATE: November 10, 1965
PLACE: 8 Eastern Coastal States
TIME: 7:45 P.M. E.S.T.
NOTES: The 12-hour aftermath of confusion and terror for those trapped in PROJECT BLACKOUT, as SHIELD battled against the inevitable zero hour of a fantastic invasion against America by assailants YET UNKNOWN!

AT LAST IT CAN BE TOLD!
FROM THE SECRET FILES AS TOLD TO:

STAN LEE • EDITOR
JIM STERANKO • WRITER/ILLUSTRATOR
SAM ROSEN • LETTERER

NOT THAT WE DON'T HAVE ANYONE ON IT, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE A DEAD END!
YA SAY AN OLD PAL OF YOURS FROM YEARS AGO MIGHT THROW SOME LIGHT ON THE PROBLEM
THIS COULD BE THE BREAK WE'VE BEEN WAITIN' FOR!
HE'S HERE NOW, NICK!
COLONEL FURY... I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S TOP F.B.I. MEN--JIMMY WOO!
MY PLEASURE, FURY! WE'VE HEARD A LOT ABOUT YOU!
DON'T BELIEVE EVERYTHING YA HEAR, MISTER! MOST OF IT IS JUST AN EMBARRASSIN' EXAGGERATION!
NOT AT ALL! READ ABOUT YOUR ENCOUNTER WITH HYDRA! WE ALL OWE YOU, COLONEL!
CUT IT OUT--YA KNOW I BLUSH EASY! CAP TELLS ME YA GOT A LEAD ON PROJECT BLACKOUT!
WE COULD USE A LITTLE HELP!
BACK A FEW YEARS, I FOUGHT ONE OF THE MOST SINISTER EVIL MASTER-MINDS WHO EVER LIVED! THEN, SUDDENLY, HE DROPPED OUT OF SIGHT!
WE THOUGHT HE WAS DEAD!
THEN, LAST WEEK WE UNCOVERED EVIDENCE THAT HE MAY STILL BE ALIVE! I BELIEVE HE'S THE KEY TO YOUR MYSTERY INVASION! BUT FIRST, TELL ME YOUR STORY!
WELL.. LET ME SEE! IT ALL BEGAN BACK IN SIXTY-FIVE! WE GOT AN EMERGENCY CALL FROM ESP DIVISION...
2.


"WE WERE GETTIN' A PSYCHIC TRANSMISSION OVER OUR THOUGHT COMMUNICATOR BEAM APPARATUS! AS I APPROACHED THE TELEPATHIC TRIO, AN IMAGE APPEARED ON THE VUE-PLATE ABOVE THEM--AN' THE HAIR STOOD UP ON THE BACK OF MY NECK--- A KIND'A PREMONITION OF WHAT WAS TO COME!"

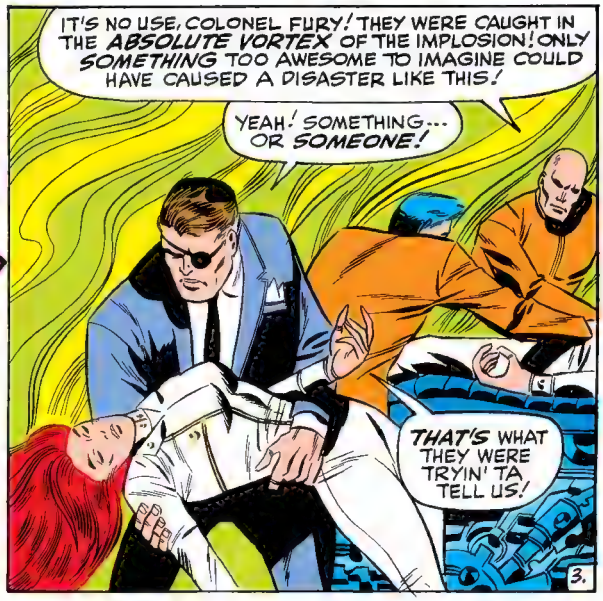
SHX-39 TO SHIELD HQ.. LITTLE TIME LEFT... FOR TRANSMISSION...

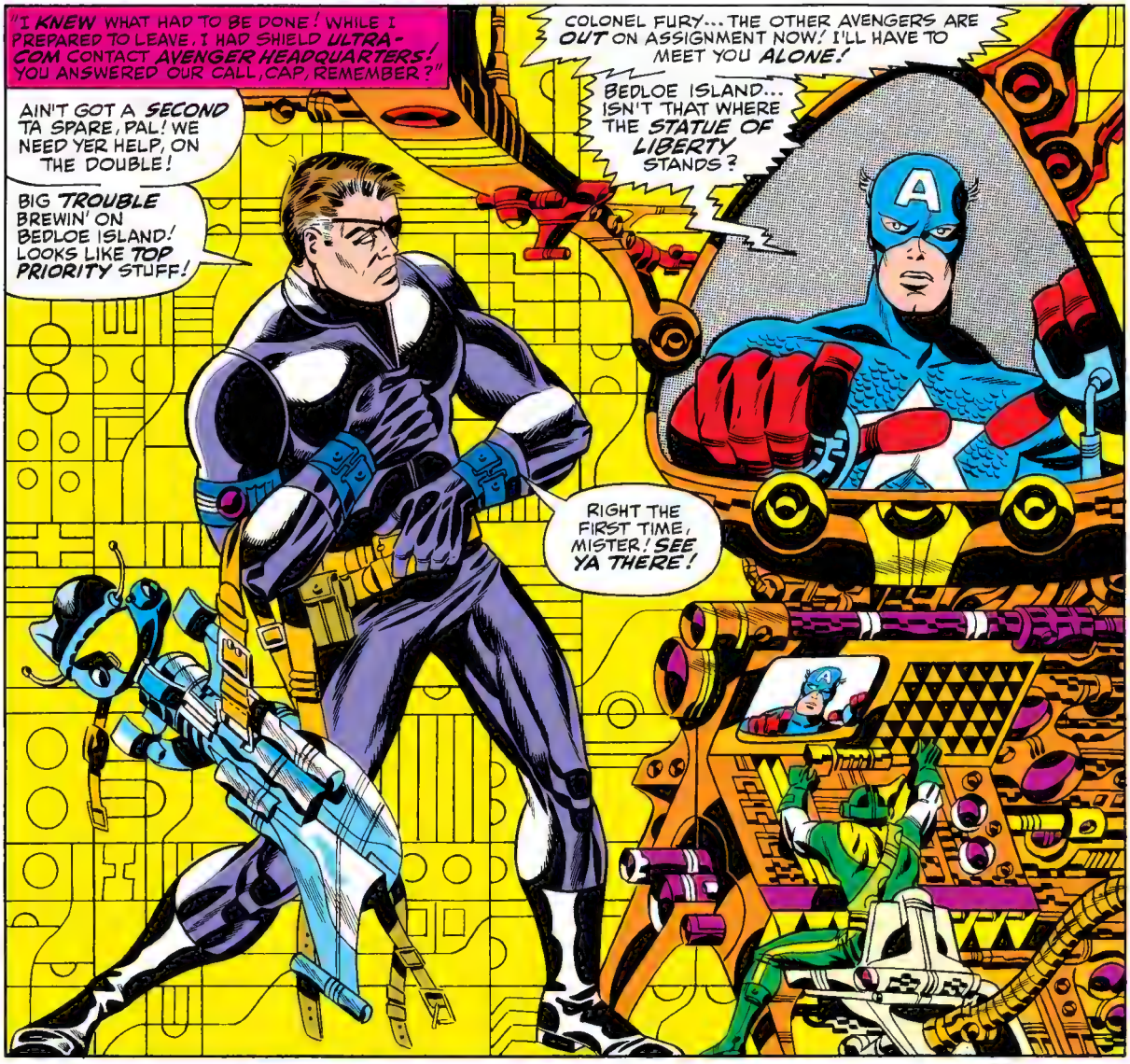
TELL FURY... UNBELIEVABLE MENACE... HIMALAYAS--TIBET... TOO BIG TO HANDLE...

AMERICA--IN DANGER... HE MUST BE STOPPED... COULD BE TOO LATE... ALREADY...

TELL FURY...HURRY... BEDLOE ISLAND...YEL-- NO--NO... DON'T...

"SUDDENLY, WITHOUT WARNING, THE WHOLE BLASTED ROOM ROCKED AS A BLINDIN' BOLT OF ENERGY TORE THE ESP MACHINE AND ITS OCCUPANTS INTO A TWISTED MASS OF RUBBLE!"
RAKKOOM!


IT'S NO USE, COLONEL FURY! THEY WERE CAUGHT IN THE ABSOLUTE VORTEX OF THE IMPLOSION! ONLY SOMETHING TOO AWESOME TO IMAGINE COULD HAVE CAUSED A DISASTER LIKE THIS!
YEAH! SOMETHING... OR SOMEONE!
THAT'S WHAT THEY WERE TRYIN' TA TELL US!
3.


"I KNEW WHAT HAD TO BE DONE! WHILE I PREPARED TO LEAVE, I HAD SHIELD ULTRA-COM CONTACT AVENGER HEADQUARTERS! YOU ANSWERED OUR CALL, CAP, REMEMBER?"
AIN'T GOT A SECOND TA SPARE, PAL! WE NEED YER HELP, ON THE DOUBLE!
BIG TROUBLE BREWIN' ON BEDLOE ISLAND! LOOKS LIKE TOP PRIORITY STUFF!
COLONEL FURY... THE OTHER AVENGERS ARE OUT ON ASSIGNMENT NOW! I'LL HAVE TO MEET YOU ALONE!
BEDLOE ISLAND... ISN'T THAT WHERE THE STATUE OF LIBERTY STANDS?
RIGHT THE FIRST TIME, MISTER! SEE YA THERE!

"AND, AN INSTANT LATER, I WAS ON MY WAY, WITH THE HELP OF A CRAZY, NEW GADGET SHIELD HAD DREAMED UP..."
THIS LITTLE SPARROW PRO-PEL-PAK IS GETTIN' ME OUT HERE FASTER'N ANYTHING ELSE AROUND!
WHOOOSH

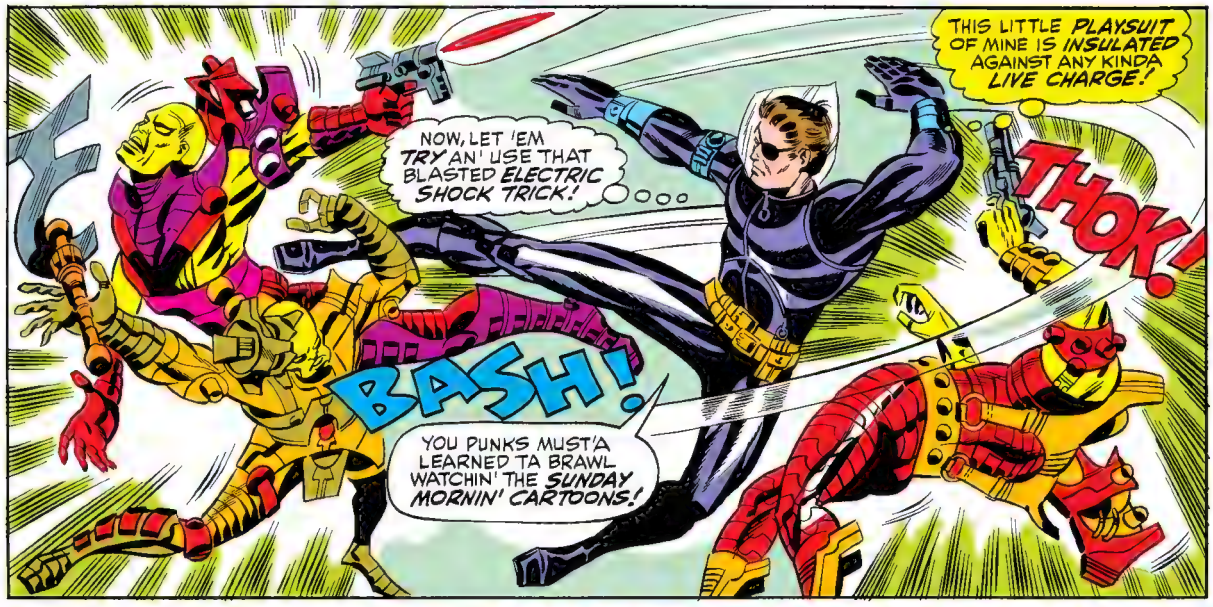
PERFECT TWO-POINT LANDING, FURY, OLD MAN! NOW... GOTTA HIDE THIS GIZMO AN' TAKE A LOOK AROUND!
MIGHT AS WELL START IN THE LOWER LEVELS BY YOURSELF..
'CAUSE CAP AIN'T HERE YET!

"THEN, I STASHED THE SMALL FLYER AN' HEADED DOWN INTO THE SUB-BASEMENTS OF THE TOWERING STATUE! EVERYTHING SEEMED TO BE ALL RIGHT... WHEN.."
HEY! WHERE'S THAT WEIRD NOISE COMIN' FROM? SOUNDS LIKE I GOT COMPANY!
HUH? WHAT IN BLUE BLAZES..?

GOOD LORD! AN ARMY OF SUPER-INVADERS... HERE IN THE STATUE OF LIBERTY--
--STREAMIN' OUT OF HOLES CUT RIGHT THROUGH THE WALLS!
SOME KINDA GRAVITY-DEFYIN' DEVICES HOLDIN' 'EM UP 'TIL THEY MAKE IT OUT!
CAN'T MAKE A MOVE 'TIL I FIGURE OUT WHAT THEY'RE UP TO!

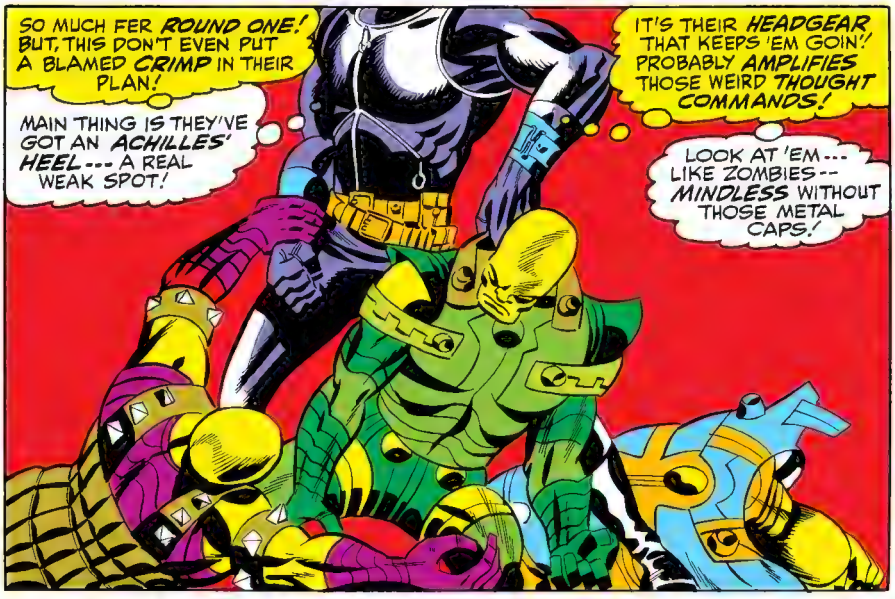
NEXT TIME, MAKE A LITTLE NOISE BEFORE YA CREEP UP ON A GUY LIKE THAT!
YA AIN'T A MOMENT TOO SOON! THE SHOW'S JUST STARTIN' TO GET GOOD!
CAME AS SOON AS I COULD, OLD FRIEND! LOOKS LIKE SOMETHING BIG! THEY'RE FORMING SQUADS!
THIS IS THE MASTER... THE FIRST PHASE OF THE INVASION OF AMERICA IS CONCLUDED.. NOW, ASSEMBLE THE ID-PARALYZER... THE MASTER COMMANDS!
CAP, DID YOU HEAR THAT TOO? SOME KINDA SUPER-THOUGHT PROJECTION SO POWERFUL EVEN WE CAN HEAR IT!
I GOT AN IDEA THAT FANCY HEADGEAR THEY'RE SPORTIN' MIGHT HAVE SOMETHIN' TA DO WITH IT!
YOU'RE RIGHT! THEY'RE SOME SORT OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES!
LOOK! THEY'RE SPLITTING UP! NOW'S OUR CHANCE!
PHALANX FOUR, BEGIN ASSEMBLING THE MACHINE! NINE AND TEN, TO THE GENERATORS! THE REST ASSUME SENTRY POSITIONS AS THE MASTER COMMANDED!
LET'S SEE IF THEY'RE AS TOUGH AS THEY LOOK, COLONEL!
RIGHT WITH YA, PAL! BUT TAKE CARE!
THERE'S MORE TO THESE JOKERS THAN MEETS THE EYE!
KRAK!
KA-RAM!
SPANG!
6.

QUICKLY, MEN! USE YOUR ELECTRONIC WEAPONS...DISPATCH THE INTRUDERS AT ONCE...THE MASTER COMMANDS!
KLANG!
YEEEOW!
THAT MACE HAS THE JOLT OF A LIVE WIRE!
WE'VE GOT TO TRY TO STOP THEM, NICK--
BEFORE THEY CAN ATTACK AS A GROUP!
HOLD IT, CAP! THEY...
NO TIME FOR TALK NOW, FURY---UHHNN!
KKRAK!
SSSZZZSSK!
THEY GOT CAP WITH A BLAST'A ELECTRICITY! GUESS IT'S MY TURN!
CAN'T TAKE A CHANCE ON OUT-FIGHTIN' 'EM! GOTTA HANDLE IT ANOTHER WAY!
IF THIS SLEEP PELLET DON'T WORK, I MIGHT AS WELL SAY MY PRAYERS, NOW!
FFFTT!

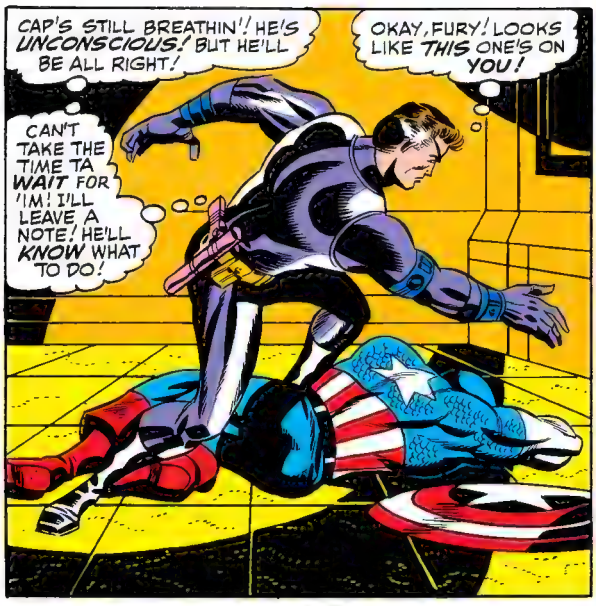

NOW, LET 'EM TRY AN' USE THAT BLASTED ELECTRIC SHOCK TRICK!
THIS LITTLE PLAYSUIT OF MINE IS INSULATED AGAINST ANY KINDA LIVE CHARGE!
BASH!
THOK!
YOU PUNKS MUST'A LEARNED TA BRAWL WATCHIN' THE SUNDAY MORNIN' CARTOONS!

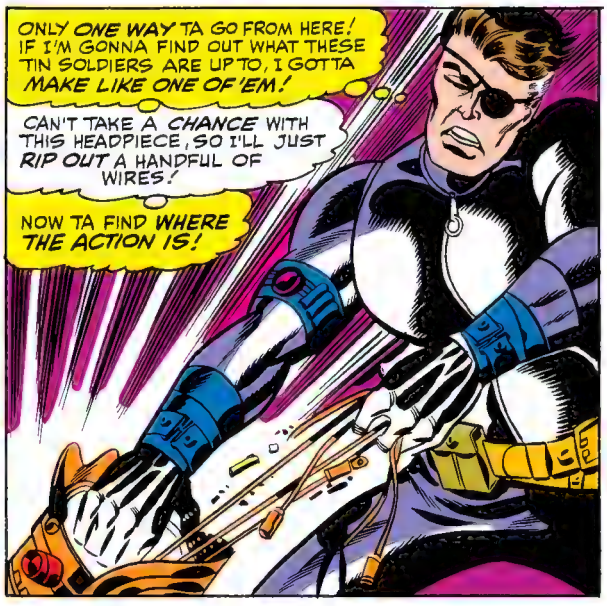
HEY! ONCE THESE JOKERS LOSE THOSE NUTTY HELMETS, THEY'RE OUT FER KEEPS! IT TAKES A WHILE, BUT YER CATCHIN' ON, FURY!

WRACK!
THAT GAS SHOULD BE TAKIN' ITS TOLL JUST ABOUT NOW!


SO MUCH FER ROUND ONE! BUT, THIS DON'T EVEN PUT A BLAMED CRIMP IN THEIR PLAN!
MAIN THING IS THEY'VE GOT AN ACHILLES' HEEL--- A REAL WEAK SPOT!
IT'S THEIR HEADGEAR THAT KEEPS 'EM GOIN'! PROBABLY AMPLIFIES THOSE WEIRD THOUGHT COMMANDS!
LOOK AT 'EM--- LIKE ZOMBIES-- MINDLESS WITHOUT THOSE METAL CAPS!

THAT GAS SHOULD BE WEAK ENOUGH NOW FER ME TA TAKE THIS HOOD FILTER OFF AN' REALLY GET DOWN TA BUSINESS!


CAP'S STILL BREATHIN'! HE'S UNCONSCIOUS! BUT HE'LL BE ALL RIGHT!
OKAY, FURY! LOOKS LIKE THIS ONE'S ON YOU!
CAN'T TAKE THE TIME TA WAIT FOR 'IM! I'LL LEAVE A NOTE! HE'LL KNOW WHAT TO DO!


ONLY ONE WAY TA GO FROM HERE! IF I'M GONNA FIND OUT WHAT THESE TIN SOLDIERS ARE UP TO, I GOTTA MAKE LIKE ONE OF 'EM!
CAN'T TAKE A CHANCE WITH THIS HEADPIECE, SO I'LL JUST RIP OUT A HANDFUL OF WIRES!
NOW TA FIND WHERE THE ACTION IS!

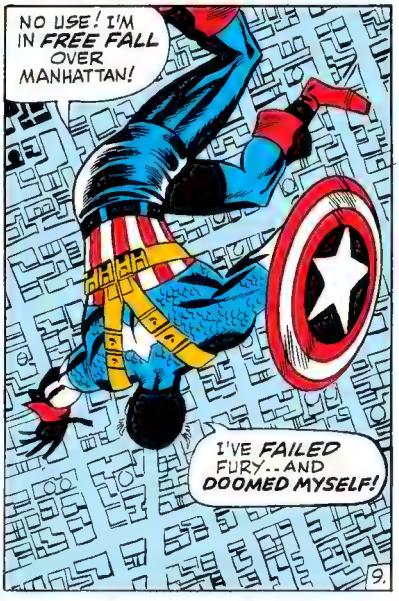
"I HATED TA COP OUT AN' LEAVE CAP THERE, BUT I KNEW HE'D UNDERSTAND! SOMETIME IN THE NEXT QUARTER HOUR, HE WOKE UP...

CAP—
NEED SPECIAL GIZMO TO DEFEAT THOSE CREEPS! NO TIME FOR TONY STARK... GO TO BAXTER BUILDING! I'LL WATCH THE STORE 'TIL YOU GET BACK!
Fury

"I KNEW IF CAP COULD GET TO FF HEADQUARTERS, REED RICHARDS WOULD FIND AN ANSWER, AFTER HE KNEW WHAT MADE THE INVADERS TICK..."

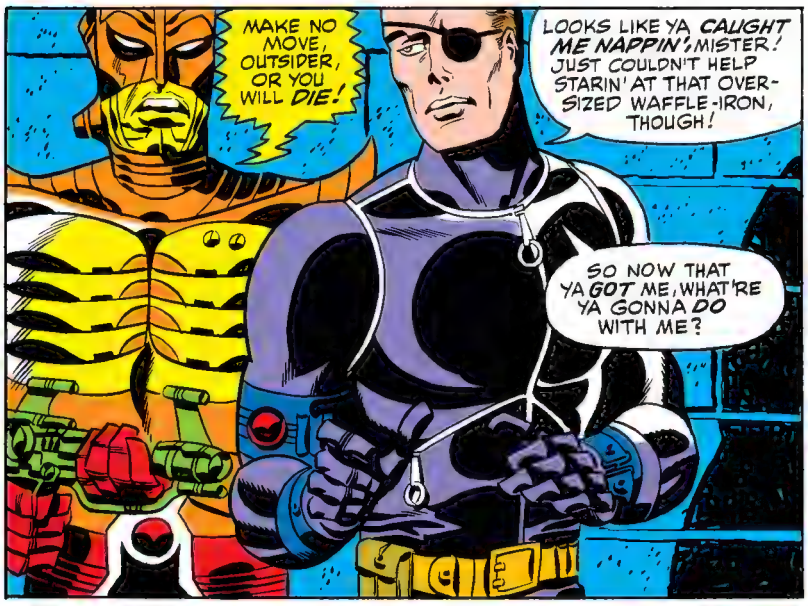
FURY'S RIGHT! ONLY MR. FANTASTIC CAN HELP US NOW! HMMM! THIS GRAVITY-NULLIFYING BELT THOSE MEN WORE AS THEY CAME THROUGH THE TUNNEL...
LET'S SEE HOW IT WORKS FOR CAPTAIN AMERICA!

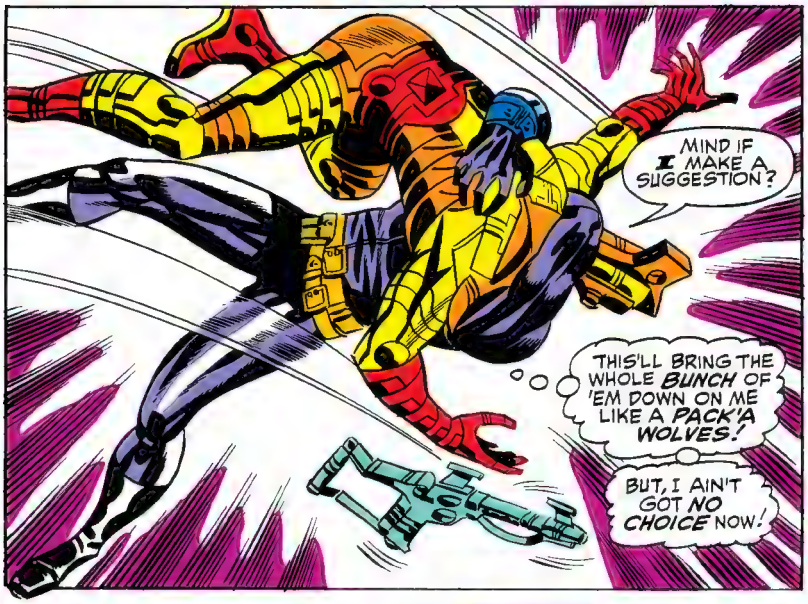
"A COUPL'A SECONDS LATER, CAP STEPPED OUTSIDE THE STATUE AND WORKED THE DIALS LIKE HE'D SEEN THEM DO! HE SHOT INTO THE SKY LIKE A ROCKET! THEN..."

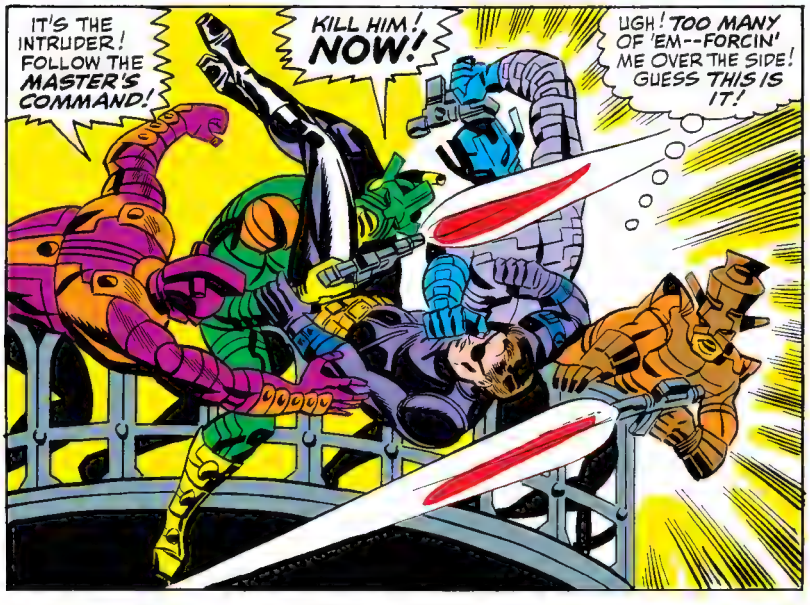


"MEANWHILE, I CAUGHT UP WITH A BUNCH OF 'EM IN BEDLOE ISLAND'S GENERATOR ROOM! AT THE TIME I DIDN'T EVEN HAVE A PLAN! I COULD ONLY WAIT---WATCHIN', HOPIN' FOR THE RIGHT MOMENT TA COME SO I COULD MOVE IN FOR THE KILL...
WHAT ROTTEN IRONY! A SPEARHEAD INVASION RIGHT UNDER OUR NOSES--AN' I STAND IN THE MIDDLE OF IT AN' CAN'T LIFT A FINGER TO STOP 'EM!
THEY'RE SPREAD OUT ALL OVER THE JOINT AN' ARMED TO THE TEETH! GOTTA WAIT!
HEAR ME, INVASION SQUAD! OUR ONSLAUGHT ON AMERICA IS PROCEEDING EXACTLY AS PLANNED BY THE MASTER! NEW YORK SHALL BE THE FIRST CITY TO FALL 'NEATH HIS CONTROL!
AFTER THE EAST COAST IS OURS, THREE REMAINING ASSAULT FORCES WILL DIVIDE AMERICA BETWEEN THEM AND CONQUER FOR THE GLORY OF THE MASTER!
QUICKLY NOW, ADAPT THESE GENERATORS TO ENERGIZE THE ID-PARALYZER! EVEN NOW, IT IS BEING READIED!
IT SHALL BE DONE! NOTHING MUST STOP US---NOTHING CAN STOP US! FOR, ONCE THE MACHINE IS IN OPERATION, THERE CAN BE NO DEFENSE!
TODAY AMERICA... TOMORROW, THE WORLD!
BEWARE, MY LEGIONS! THERE IS ONE AMONG YOU WHO IS A STRANGER... AN IMPOSTOR! FIND AND DESTROY HIM!
UH-OH! LOOKS LIKE THE ACT'S OVER! THESE HOODS NEED POWER---RAW POWER TA GET THAT MACHINE GOIN'!
I LEARNED WHAT I GOTTA KNOW! NOW IF ONLY I GET THE CHANCE TA USE IT!
YOU GUYS ARE ABOUT TA FIND OUT OL' NICK FURY DON'T GIVE UP EASY!
GIMME THAT TOY POP GUN YER PLAYIN' WITH, SONNY, AN' I'LL SHOW YA HOW TA USE IT RIGHT!

WR AM!
SORRY, BUT I AIN'T GOT TIME TA PLAY GAMES WITH YA NOW, PAL! YER MASTER JUST READ MY EXIT LINE!
C'MON, FURY! HAVE TA PUT A LITTLE DISTANCE BETWEEN YOU AN' THEM IF YER GONNA LIVE ANY LONGER!
'SIDES, I SAID I'D WAIT FOR CAP-- AN' I AIN'T IN THE HABIT'A MAKIN' PROMISES I CAN'T KEEP!
GOTTA GET THIS ARMOR PLATE OFF, BUT QUICK! IT'S SLOWIN' ME UP!
KEEP LOOKIN', YA CREEPS! EVERY LITTLE DISTRACTION HELPS!
HYDRA ISLAND WAS A PUSHOVER NEXT TA THIS JOB!
THING I CAN'T FIGURE IS, WHO IN SAM HILL THOSE GUYS ARE, ANYWAY!
AN' WHO'S THE KINGPIN DIRECTIN' 'EM!
THEY'RE ALL YAPPIN' ABOUT SOME KINDA PARALYZIN' MACHINE! THAT'S THE KEY BEHIND THIS WHOLE OPERATION!
GOTTA FIND IT!
I'LL BE OUTTA HERE IN ANOTHER SECOND AN---
CRIPES! NOW WHAT!
PREPARE CAREFULLY THIS INSTRUMENT OF DOOM, MEN! TOO MANY YEARS HAS IT TAKEN TO PERFECT SUCH AN ULTRA-WEAPON THAT WILL TURN ALL MANKIND INTO MINDLESS SLAVES SUCH AS YOU, MY OBEDIENT MINIONS!


MAKE NO MOVE, OUTSIDER, OR YOU WILL DIE!
LOOKS LIKE YA CAUGHT ME NAPPIN', MISTER! JUST COULDN'T HELP STARIN' AT THAT OVER-SIZED WAFFLE-IRON, THOUGH!
SO NOW THAT YA GOT ME, WHAT'RE YA GONNA DO WITH ME?


MIND IF I MAKE A SUGGESTION?
THIS'LL BRING THE WHOLE BUNCH OF 'EM DOWN ON ME LIKE A PACK'A WOLVES!
BUT, I AIN'T GOT NO CHOICE NOW!


IT'S THE INTRUDER! FOLLOW THE MASTER'S COMMAND!
KILL HIM! NOW!
UGH! TOO MANY OF 'EM--FORCIN' ME OVER THE SIDE! GUESS THIS IS IT!

NEXT
THE SECOND DOOM!

STRANGE TALES
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
NICK FURY, AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D.
DOCTOR STRANGE
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
12¢ IND.
161 OCT
"THE SECOND DOOM!"
STERANKO

# NICK FURY, AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D.!

## SUPREME HEADQUARTERS INTERNATIONAL ESPIONAGE LAW-ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

# THE SECOND DOOM

REMEMBER LAST ISH? NICK FURY BEGAN RELATING THE SWINGIN' SAGA OF THE NEW YORK BLACKOUT TO F.B.I. MAN JIMMY WOO! AND, AS YOU MIGHT'A GUESSED, OUR USUAL TWELVE PAGES ENDED WITH THE DYNAMIC DIRECTOR OF SHIELD FALLING FROM THE TOP OF THE STATUE OF LIBERTY! MEANWHILE, CAPTAIN AMERICA'S GRAVITY-NULLIFYING HARNESS HAS FAILED, LEAVING HIM IN FREE FALL HIGH OVER MANHATTAN! CONFUSED? YOU AIN'T SEEN NOTHIN' YET... KEEP READING AS NICK FURY NARRATES THE TERRIFYING TALE OF...

BEN--LOOK!

ON THE STRATO-MONITOR SCREENS...IT'S CAPTAIN AMERICA!

FALLING OUT OF THE SKY--DIRECTLY ABOVE US!

IF YOU'RE WONDERING WHAT THIS IS DOING HERE.. WE JUST COULDN'T FIND ROOM ANYWHERE ELSE!

STAN LEE
EDITOR

JIM STERANKO
WRITER • ILLUSTRATOR

SAM ROSEN
LETTERER

HE'S IN TROUBLE! WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING!

CAN'T WE WAIT AN' SEE IF HE GETS OUTTA IT HISSELF?

BEN!

AWW--I WAS ONLY KIDDIN'!

THERE'S GOTTA BE SUMPTHIN' AROUND HERE WE CAN CATCH A FELLA SUPER-HERO WITH!

## PROJECT: BLACKOUT!
PART II

HURRY! WE HAVEN'T GOT A SECOND TO SPARE, BEN! IF WE'RE GONNA SAVE CAP, WE'VE GOT TO GET UP ON THE ROOF QUICK!
THE VACU-LIFT! IT'S THE FASTEST WAY UP...THE ONLY WAY WE CAN REACH HIM IN TIME TO SAVE HIS LIFE!
YEAH, EVEN IF WE DO, YOU MIGHT TALK HIM TO DEATH!
HANG ON, OLD FRIEND! I'M SENDING US UP AT MAXIMUM VELOCITY!
JUST LIKE THE GIRL IN MACY'S ELEVATOR DURIN' THE CHRISTMAS RUSH, HUH?
WE'LL BE THERE IN EXACTLY FOUR SECONDS!
VVVSHOOM!
"AND LIKE THE MAN SAID.. EXACTLY FOUR SECONDS LATER..."
YA ONLY GOT ONE CHANCE TA CATCH HIM, STRETCH!
DON'T BLOW IT!
HE'S DIVING IN AT OVER A HUNDRED MILES AN HOUR!
CAN'T STOP HIM... BEN, YOU'VE GOT TO BREAK HIS FALL!
OOOFFTH!
GREAT CATCH, BEN!
YA DID IT AGAIN, BLAST IT!
HOW COME I ALWAYS GET THE ROUGH JOBS?
SHEESH! COULDN'T HE JUST COME IN THE FRONT DOOR LIKE EVERYBODY ELSE?
KUMP!
RICHARDS.. BEN GRIMM, I OWE BOTH OF YOU FOR SAVING MY LIFE!
DON'T SWEAT IT, CAP! YOU'LL MAKE IT UP TO US!
NO TIME FOR CHATTER NOW! NICK FURY'S TRAPPED ON BEDLOE ISLAND BY A SPEAR-HEAD OF ALIEN INVADERS!
HEY! REED JUST PICKED SOMETHIN' STRANGE UP ON ONE OF THOSE TUBES HE'S ALWAYS LOOKIN' INTO!
IF YOU CAN'T FIND A WAY TO STOP THEM..!
RIGHT YOU ARE, BIG FELLA-- AND, IF IT'S WHAT MY SCANNERS INDICATE, WE MUST GET TO WORK IMMEDIATELY! CAP...TELL ME EVERYTHING YOU KNOW ON THE WAY DOWN TO MY LAB!
IT'S THE ONLY WAY WE CAN POSSIBLY SAVE FURY!
2.

"SO YA SEE, WHILE CAP AN' RICHARDS WERE FIGURIN' OUT HOW TO CHOKE OFF THE STRANGE INVASION OF NEW YORK CITY, I WAS TRYIN' TO HOLD THE FORT MY OWN WAY! LET ME TELL YA, JOHN WAYNE NEVER HAD IT THIS TOUGH! THEY HIT ME LIKE THE CONEY ISLAND EXPRESS... SWEEPIN' ME OVER THE SIDE LIKE A BLASTED LEAF IN THE WIND--"
KILL THE INTRUDER! FOLLOW THE MASTER'S COMMAND!-AAKK!-
-UUGHH!- THEY'RE ATTACKING IN FULL FORCE!
I AIN'T GOT A CHANCE! IT'LL BE ALL OVER IN ANOTHER SECOND!
KRAK!
YER DONE, FURY! UNLESS...
UNLESS YA CAN MAKE A GRAB AT THAT CROWN!
ARRGH! THE STRAIN... TEARIN' AT MY ARMS!
LOOKS LIKE I GOT OUTTA THE FRYIN' PAN AN' INTO THE FIRE! THE WHOLE BLAMED STATUE'S CRAWLIN' WITH THESE CREEPS!
IT'S ONLY GONNA TAKE 'EM A COUPLA SECONDS TA GET ME LINED UP IN THEIR GUNSIGHTS... SO..
LOOKS LIKE I GOTTA COME ON LIKE GANGBUSTERS-- NOW!
THOK!
IF I KEEP MOVIN', MAYBE I CAN GIVE 'EM A RUN FER THEIR MONEY!
GOTTA HOLD OUT 'TIL REED RICHARDS COMES THROUGH... IF HE MAKES IT IN TIME!
3.

"BUT, THESE GOONS DIDN'T **REACT** LIKE MEN..MORE LIKE **MACHINES**..'CAUSE BEFORE I COULD GET BACK **ON MY FEET**, THEY WERE ZAPPIN' ME WITH THOSE NUTTY PISTOLS ... "

KZZZZTAK!

**YEOOWW!** THAT WAS **TOO CLOSE** FOR COMFORT! ANOTHER INCH OR TWO AN' I'D BE **FRYIN'** LIKE A SLAB OF BACON!

IF I CAN **ONLY** GET MY MITTS ON ONE A'THEM CRUMMY **CLUBS** THOSE JOKERS ARE BRANDISHING!

SORRY TA BUST UP THE **TEA PARTY**, BUT YOU BOYS ARE BEGINNING TA **BORE** ME!

IN FACT, THE WAY THINGS'VE BEEN GOIN' AROUND HERE **LATELY**, A GUY COULD GET THE FEELIN' HE AIN'T **WELL-LIKED!**

EVEN WITH **ALL** THE ARMOR, HE'S **GOIN' DOWN** LIKE A TON A' BRICKS! THAT **ELECTRIFIED** MACE HAS THE KICK OF A MULE!

BASH!

KRUMF!

**CRIPES!** I CAN'T EVEN RADIO BACK TO **SHIELD HQ**...MY COMMUNICATOR MUSTA GOT **BUSTED** IN THAT LAST LITTLE FRACAS!

FUNNY... I AIN'T SEEN **ANYONE** AROUND HERE WHO EVEN **LOOKS** HUMAN! **ALL** BEDLOE ISLAND'S PERSONNEL WERE PROBABLY **WASTED** WHEN THESE PUNKS SHOWED UP!

**MOMENTS LATER...**

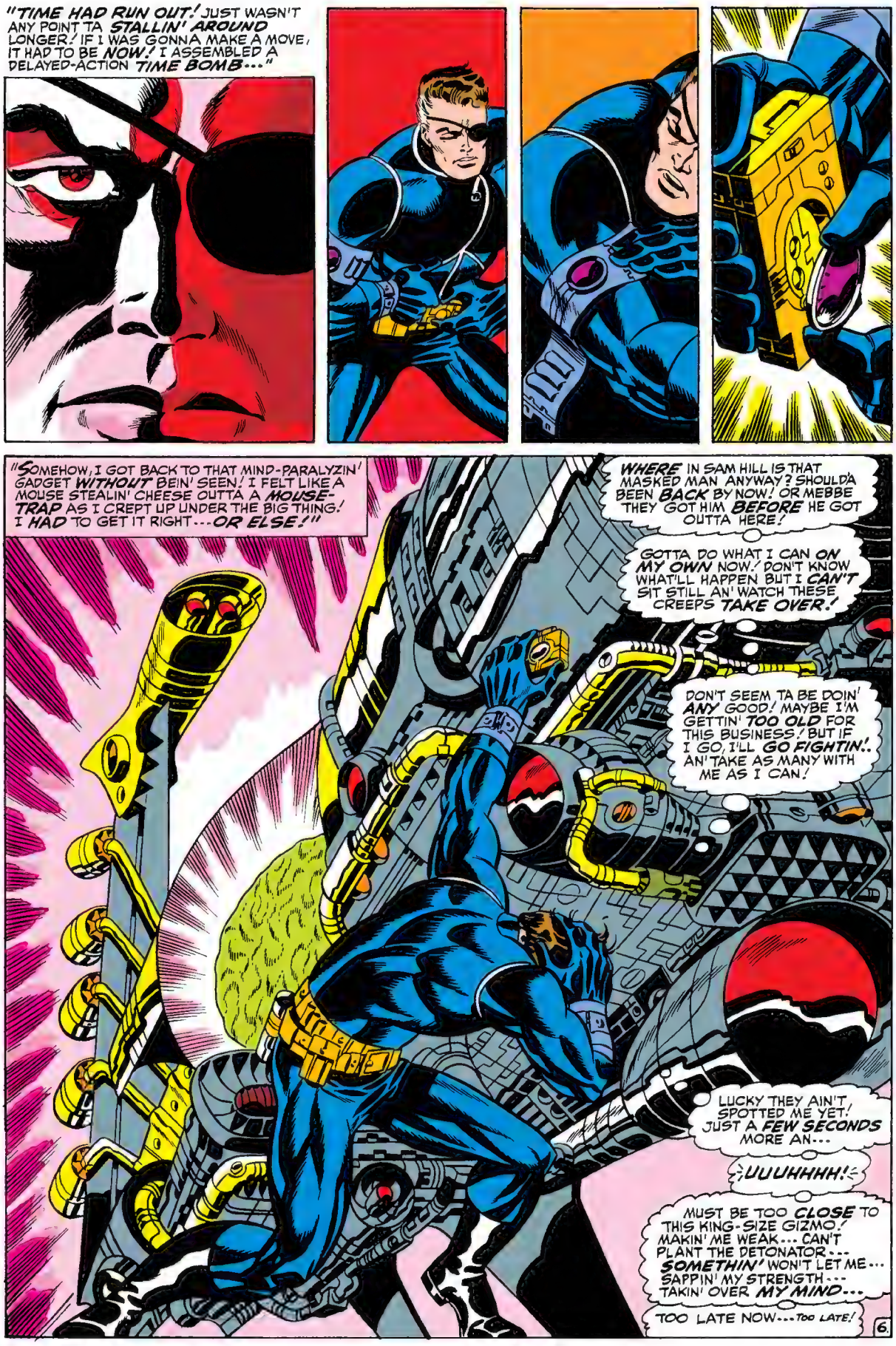
**MOST** I CAN DO NOW IS KEEP OUTTA SIGHT...

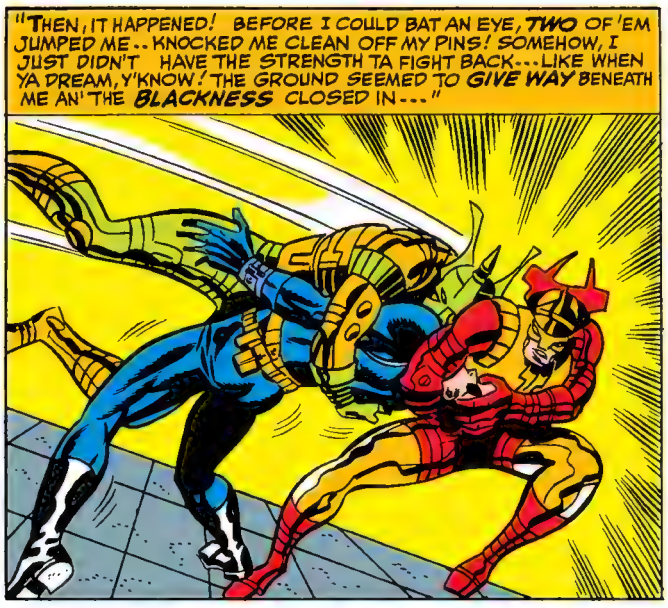
AN' HOPE THE **CAVALRY** SHOWS BEFORE ALL HECK BUSTS LOOSE!

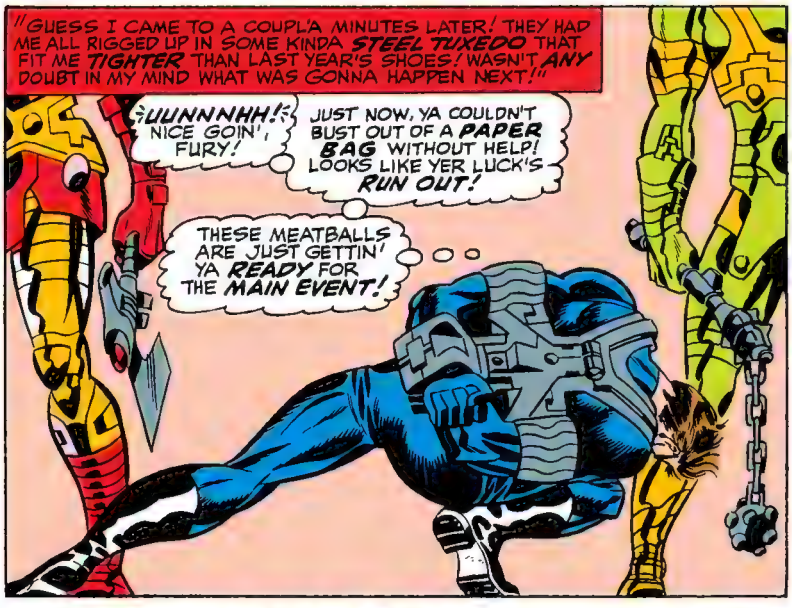
THIS IS THE **MASTER**... ONLY **MOMENTS** REMAIN BEFORE THE ID-PARALYZER **IMMOBILIZES** AMERICA'S EAST COAST... SENTRIES, ASSUME YOUR POSITIONS!

GOTTA **STOP** 'EM! WHAT HAPPENS TA ME DON'T MATTER IF I CAN **TAKE OUT** THAT BLASTED MACHINE!

"BUT CAP HAD MADE IT TO THE BAXTER BUILDING, AN' AT THAT VERY MOMENT WAS PREPARIN' TO GET A COUNTER-PLAN OFF THE GROUND---IF IT WASN'T TOO LATE ALREADY---"
---SO IT SEEMS AS THOUGH THEY'RE COMMANDED BY SOME SORT OF ELECTRONIC THOUGHT IMPULSE, AS THOUGH THEY GET THEIR POWER FROM IT!
YEAH! REED PICKED UP A COUPLA MESSAGES ON HIS TOY SWITCHBOARD! I THOUGHT IT WAS JUST ANOTHER ONE'A THEM NUTTY SPACE OPERAS!
WE HAVEN'T A MOMENT TO SPARE! IF ONLY I CAN CONVERT THIS EXPERIMENTAL FLYING CRAFT IN TIME!
YOU MEAN YOU'VE FIGURED OUT A WAY TO STOP THE INVASION?
NO TIME TO SAY FOR SURE, AVENGER! BUT, IF WE CAN TAP ENOUGH ENERGY, ENOUGH RAW POWER, WE MAY HAVE A CHANCE!
BEN, GET THAT ELECTRO-AMPLIFIER RIFLE I RIGGED UP! CAP'LL NEED IT!
NUTS! WHAT HAPPENED TO THE DAYS WHEN GUNS SHOT GOOD OLD-FASHIONED BULLETS?
BULLETS WOULDN'T STOP THIS ONSLAUGHT, GRIMM! THEY'RE TOO POWERFUL! THEIR VERY BODIES ARE CAPABLE OF ELECTROCUTING AN ADVERSARY!
I KNOW! I TOOK THE FULL FORCE OF A BLAST!
MY COMPUTERS VERIFY THAT, CAP! THAT'S WHY I BELIEVE ONLY A GREATER AMOUNT OF ENERGY THAN THEIR OWN CAN STOP THEM!
BUT WHAT ABOUT COLONEL FURY? I WONDER...
FORGET IT, MISTER! FURY'S ONE MAN WHO CAN HOLD HIS OWN ANYWHERE!
TIME FOR YOU TO GET GOING!
AND IF WE CAN GET OUR PART DONE IN TIME, YOU MAY BE ABLE TO TURN THE TIDE OF BATTLE WITH THAT WEAPON!
I THINK I'LL GO ALONG WITH YA, MASKED MAN!
SORRY, BEN! I'LL NEED YOU TO OPERATE THIS AERIAL CRAFT!
THEN, I GUESS I'LL BE THE FIRST TO KNOW IF YOUR TIMING'S AS GOOD AS YOUR IDEAS! IF NOT, I'LL JUST SAY GOODBYE NOW!
NEVER THOUGHT I'D SEE THE DAY WHEN THE EVER-LOVIN' THING WOULD BE PUSHIN' BUTTONS INSTEAD'A CLOBBERIN' SOME COSTUMED CREEP!
QUIT MUMBLING, BEN! YOU'RE MORE VALUABLE HERE!
GOOD LUCK, CAP... AND GOD-SPEED!
"MEANWHILE, IN CASE YER WONDERIN' HOW OL' FURY WAS KEEPIN' BUSY--"
5.

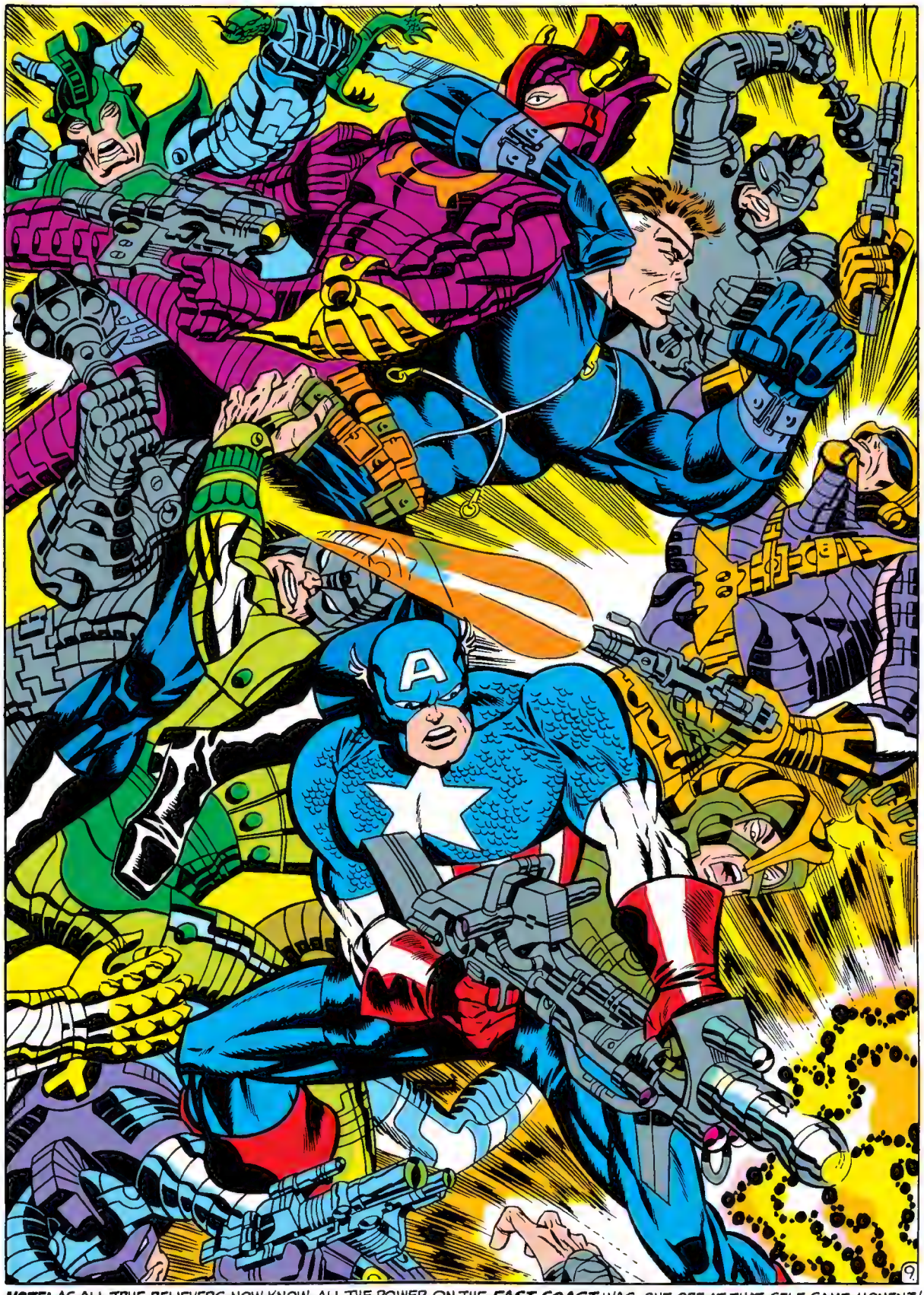

"TIME HAD RUN OUT! JUST WASN'T ANY POINT TA STALLIN' AROUND LONGER! IF I WAS GONNA MAKE A MOVE, IT HAD TO BE NOW! I ASSEMBLED A DELAYED-ACTION TIME BOMB..."
"SOMEHOW, I GOT BACK TO THAT MIND-PARALYZIN' GADGET WITHOUT BEIN' SEEN! I FELT LIKE A MOUSE STEALIN' CHEESE OUTTA A MOUSE-TRAP AS I CREPT UP UNDER THE BIG THING! I HAD TO GET IT RIGHT...OR ELSE!"
WHERE IN SAM HILL IS THAT MASKED MAN ANYWAY? SHOULDA BEEN BACK BY NOW! OR MEBBE THEY GOT HIM BEFORE HE GOT OUTTA HERE!
GOTTA DO WHAT I CAN ON MY OWN NOW! DON'T KNOW WHAT'LL HAPPEN BUT I CAN'T SIT STILL AN' WATCH THESE CREEPS TAKE OVER!
DON'T SEEM TA BE DOIN' ANY GOOD! MAYBE I'M GETTIN' TOO OLD FOR THIS BUSINESS! BUT IF I GO, I'LL GO FIGHTIN'! AN' TAKE AS MANY WITH ME AS I CAN!
LUCKY THEY AIN'T SPOTTED ME YET! JUST A FEW SECONDS MORE AN...
UUUHHHH!
MUST BE TOO CLOSE TO THIS KING-SIZE GIZMO! MAKIN' ME WEAK... CAN'T PLANT THE DETONATOR... SOMETHIN' WON'T LET ME... SAPPIN' MY STRENGTH... TAKIN' OVER MY MIND...
TOO LATE NOW...TOO LATE!
6


"THEN, IT HAPPENED! BEFORE I COULD BAT AN EYE, TWO OF 'EM JUMPED ME.. KNOCKED ME CLEAN OFF MY PINS! SOMEHOW, I JUST DIDN'T HAVE THE STRENGTH TA FIGHT BACK... LIKE WHEN YA DREAM, Y'KNOW! THE GROUND SEEMED TO GIVE WAY BENEATH ME AN' THE BLACKNESS CLOSED IN..."

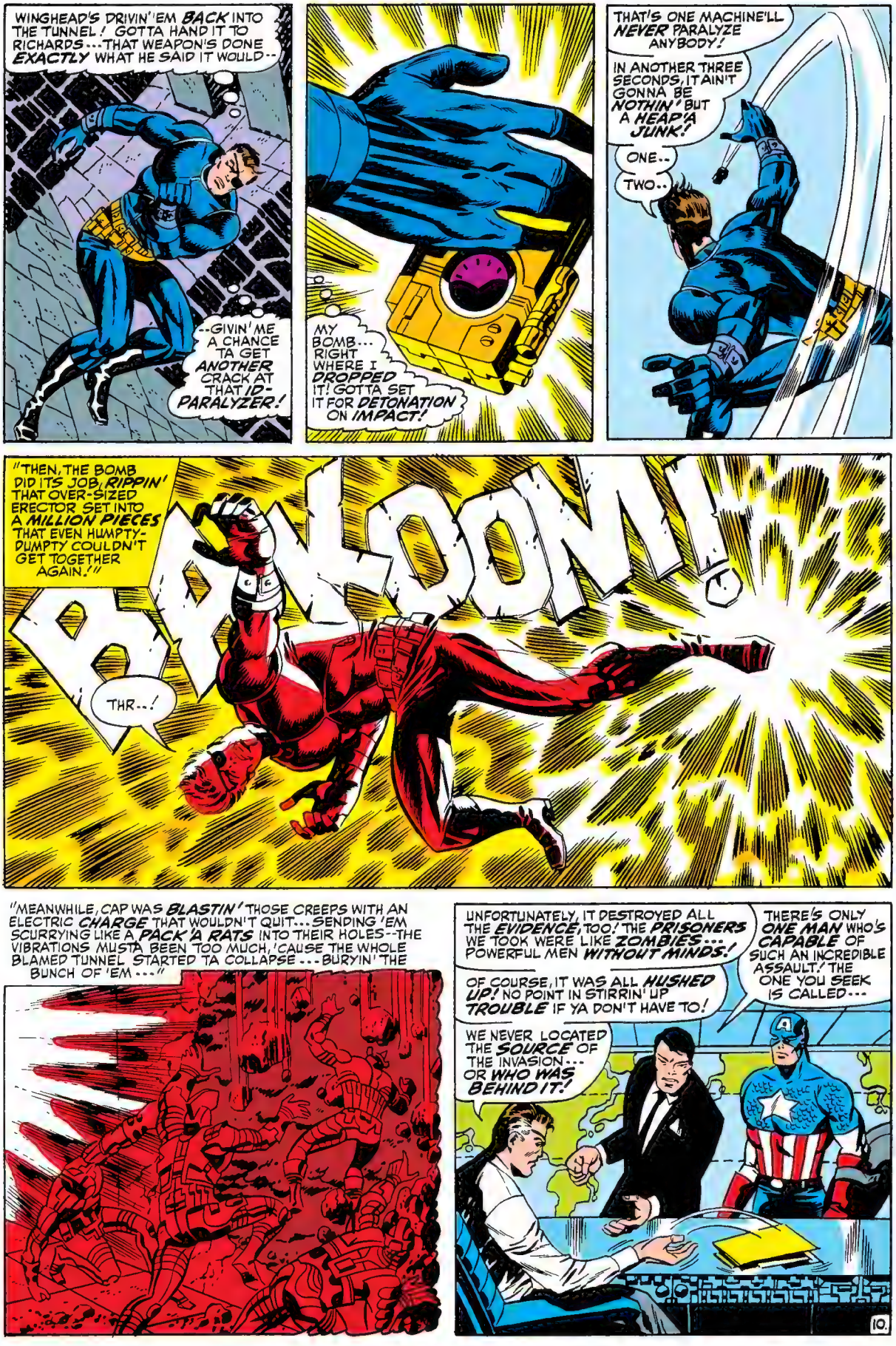

"GUESS I CAME TO A COUPL'A MINUTES LATER! THEY HAD ME ALL RIGGED UP IN SOME KINDA STEEL TUXEDO THAT FIT ME TIGHTER THAN LAST YEAR'S SHOES! WASN'T ANY DOUBT IN MY MIND WHAT WAS GONNA HAPPEN NEXT!"
UUNNNHH! NICE GOIN', FURY!
JUST NOW, YA COULDN'T BUST OUT OF A PAPER BAG WITHOUT HELP! LOOKS LIKE YER LUCK'S RUN OUT!
THESE MEATBALLS ARE JUST GETTIN' YA READY FOR THE MAIN EVENT!

"SUDDENLY, SOMETHING FLASHED INTO THE ICY WATER ABOVE ME! CAP HAD SEEN WHAT HAD HAPPENED AS HE APPROACHED ON RICHARDS' FLYIN' TRICYCLE AN' DECIDED TA PLAY LIFE GUARD! A LITTLE WHILE LONGER AN' NICK FURY WOULD'A BEEN NOTHIN' BUT FISH-FOOD!"

"YEAH... CAP FISHED ME OUTTA THE POND LIKE A WET MACKEREL! I GULPED MOUTHFULS OF AIR AN' TRIED TO CLEAR THE COBWEBS OUTTA MY HEAD..."
WE'VE GOT TO GET THAT RIG OFF YOU, COLONEL! I'M GOING TO USE MY SHIELD TO SHATTER THOSE MANACLES! BRACE YOURSELF!
SPRACK!
"CAP TOLD ME THE SITUATION AS WE HEADED BACK INTO THE HEART OF THE STATUE WHERE HE'D LEFT THE GIZMO REED RICHARDS GAVE HIM! BUT THEY'D ALREADY FOUND IT..."
MUST BE ONE'A THOSE DAYS, MISTER! GOTTA GRAB THAT GADGET AWAY FROM 'EM! CAREFUL THEY DON'T TURN THE JUICE ON YA AGAIN!
I'LL HAVE TO USE MY SHIELD! MY COSTUME'S NOT INSULATED LIKE YOURS!
I'LL TAKE THESE TWO OUT, MASKED MAN! GET YER MITTS ON THAT THING WHILE YA GOT THE CHANCE!
RARAK!
THE WEAPON'S NOT FUNCTIONAL, COLONEL! RICHARDS' PLAN... SOMEHOW IT'S NOT WORKING!
WELL, IF IT DON'T GET GOIN' IN ANOTHER SECOND, HE CAN FORGET IT!
'CAUSE HERE COMES THE SHOWDOWN!
IT'S NOW OR NEVER!
8



**NOTE:** AS ALL TRUE BELIEVERS NOW KNOW, ALL THE POWER ON THE ***EAST COAST*** WAS CUT OFF AT THAT SELF-SAME MOMENT! REED RICHARDS HAD SUCCESSFULLY ***TAPPED*** AND ***TRANSFERRED*** THE ELECTRICAL ENERGY NEEDED TO ACTIVATE THE WEAPON GIVEN TO CAPTAIN AMERICA! THE ***SAUCER-TYPE AIRCRAFT*** USED FOR THE OPERATION HAD ALIGHTED AT THE ***CLAY SUB-STATION*** NEAR ***SYRACUSE***, WHICH FURNISHED THE PRECISE ***LOCATION*** AND ***DIRECTION*** SO ***NECESSARY*** TO RICHARDS' PLAN! IT WAS SPOTTED A NUMBER OF TIMES AND REPORTED BY MANY AS A ***UFO*** AND ITS PILOT, ***BEN GRIMM***, AS A MAN FROM MARS! ...LONG-WINDED STAN.


WINGHEAD'S DRIVIN' EM BACK INTO THE TUNNEL! GOTTA HAND IT TO RICHARDS...THAT WEAPON'S DONE EXACTLY WHAT HE SAID IT WOULD--
--GIVIN' ME A CHANCE TA GET ANOTHER CRACK AT THAT ID-PARALYZER!
MY BOMB... RIGHT WHERE I DROPPED IT! GOTTA SET IT FOR DETONATION ON IMPACT!
THAT'S ONE MACHINE'LL NEVER PARALYZE ANYBODY!
IN ANOTHER THREE SECONDS, IT AIN'T GONNA BE NOTHIN' BUT A HEAP'A JUNK!
ONE..
TWO..
"THEN, THE BOMB DID ITS JOB, RIPPIN' THAT OVER-SIZED ERECTOR SET INTO A MILLION PIECES THAT EVEN HUMPTY-DUMPTY COULDN'T GET TOGETHER AGAIN.'"
KA-BOOM!!
THR--!
"MEANWHILE, CAP WAS BLASTIN' THOSE CREEPS WITH AN ELECTRIC CHARGE THAT WOULDN'T QUIT...SENDING 'EM SCURRYING LIKE A PACK'A RATS INTO THEIR HOLES--THE VIBRATIONS MUSTA BEEN TOO MUCH, 'CAUSE THE WHOLE BLAMED TUNNEL STARTED TA COLLAPSE...BURYIN' THE BUNCH OF 'EM..."
UNFORTUNATELY, IT DESTROYED ALL THE EVIDENCE, TOO! THE PRISONERS WE TOOK WERE LIKE ZOMBIES... POWERFUL MEN WITHOUT MINDS!
OF COURSE, IT WAS ALL HUSHED UP! NO POINT IN STIRRIN' UP TROUBLE IF YA DON'T HAVE TO!
WE NEVER LOCATED THE SOURCE OF THE INVASION... OR WHO WAS BEHIND IT!
THERE'S ONLY ONE MAN WHO'S CAPABLE OF SUCH AN INCREDIBLE ASSAULT! THE ONE YOU SEEK IS CALLED...
10.

THE YELLOW CLAW!!

I SWORE-REVENGE ON JIMMY WOO YEARS AGO! NOW, ***ALL THE WORLD*** WILL TREMBLE AS THE DEMONIAC SHADOW OF ***THE YELLOW CLAW*** ONCE AGAIN FALLS ACROSS THE EARTH!

LITTLE DOES SHIELD KNOW I HAVE AN EVEN MORE ***DEADLY***, MORE ***SINISTER*** PLAN ABOUT TO MATERIALIZE!

THE ***YEARS*** I'VE SPENT PLOTTING AND EXECUTING ***CRIMES*** IN EVERY COUNTRY ON THE GLOBE, BUILDING AN ***EMPIRE OF EVIL***, WAITING FOR THE RIGHT MOMENT TO ***UNLEASH*** UNDREAMED-OF FORCES AGAINST THOSE WHO WOULD DEFY MY WILL!



BUT, ***PERHAPS*** THE PLAN YOU SPEAK OF WILL ***FAIL!*** PERHAPS IT WOULD BE ***BETTER*** TO LIVE IN ***SOLITUDE*** AWAY FROM THE CIVILIZATION WHICH ***EXILED*** YOU!

TAKE CARE, SUWAN! THE YELLOW CLAW HAS ***LITTLE PATIENCE*** WITH SUCH WORDS!

EVEN ***NOW*** HE PREPARES A DIABOLIC PLOT TO MENACE THE WORLD--AN INFALLIBLE SCHEME HE REFERS TO ONLY AS...

...THE SECOND DOOM!

***SILENCE!*** SOON, ***SUWAN***, MY BELOVED NIECE, ***YOU*** WILL SIT BY THE SIDE OF THE ***MASTER OF THE WORLD!***

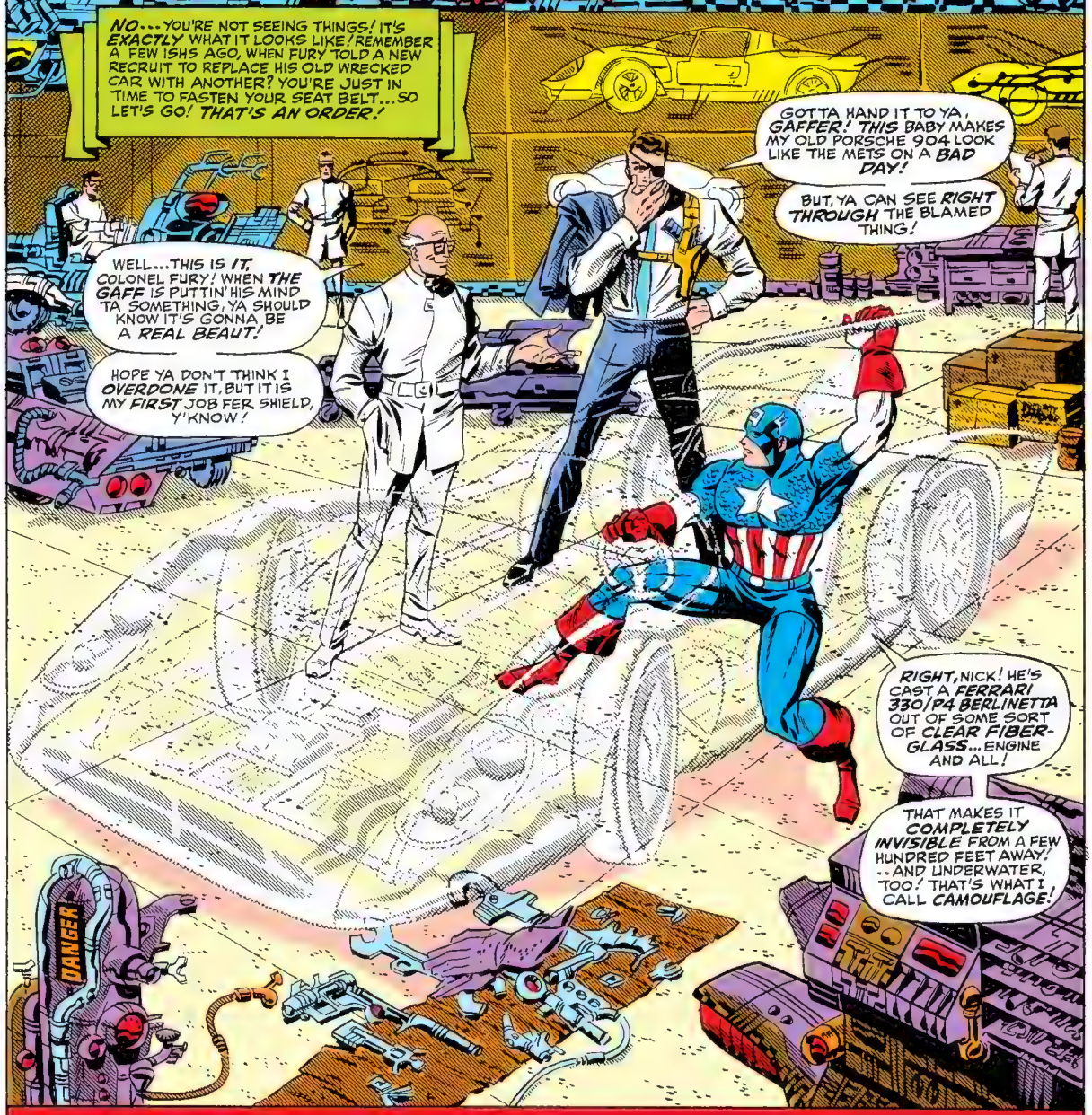
IT WILL BE ***MOST*** UNFORTUNATE IF ***YOUR FRIEND***, JIMMY WOO, ONCE AGAIN INTERFERES!

TO BE CONTINUED!

# NICK FURY, AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D.!™

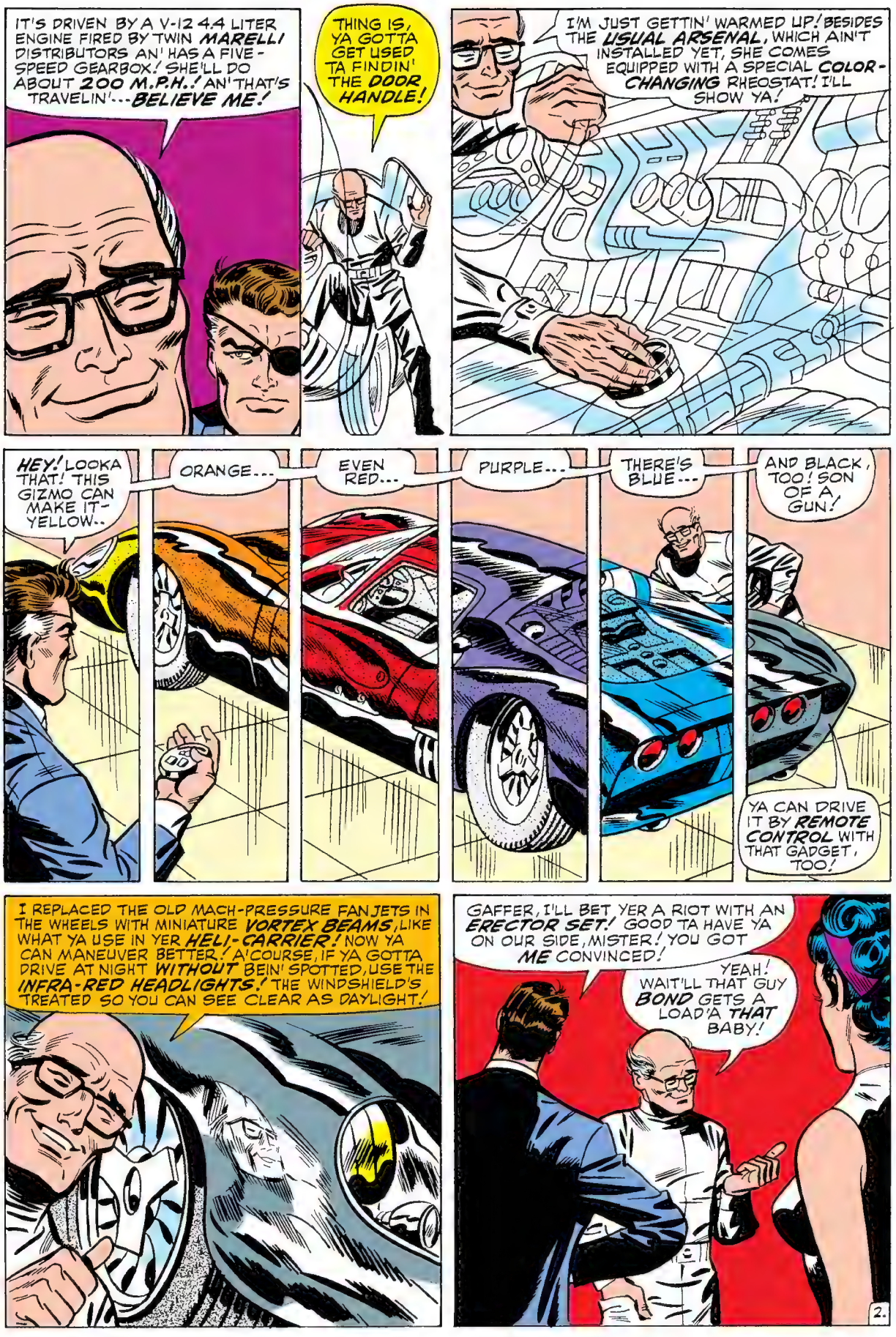
SUPREME HEADQUARTERS INTERNATIONAL ESPIONAGE LAW-ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

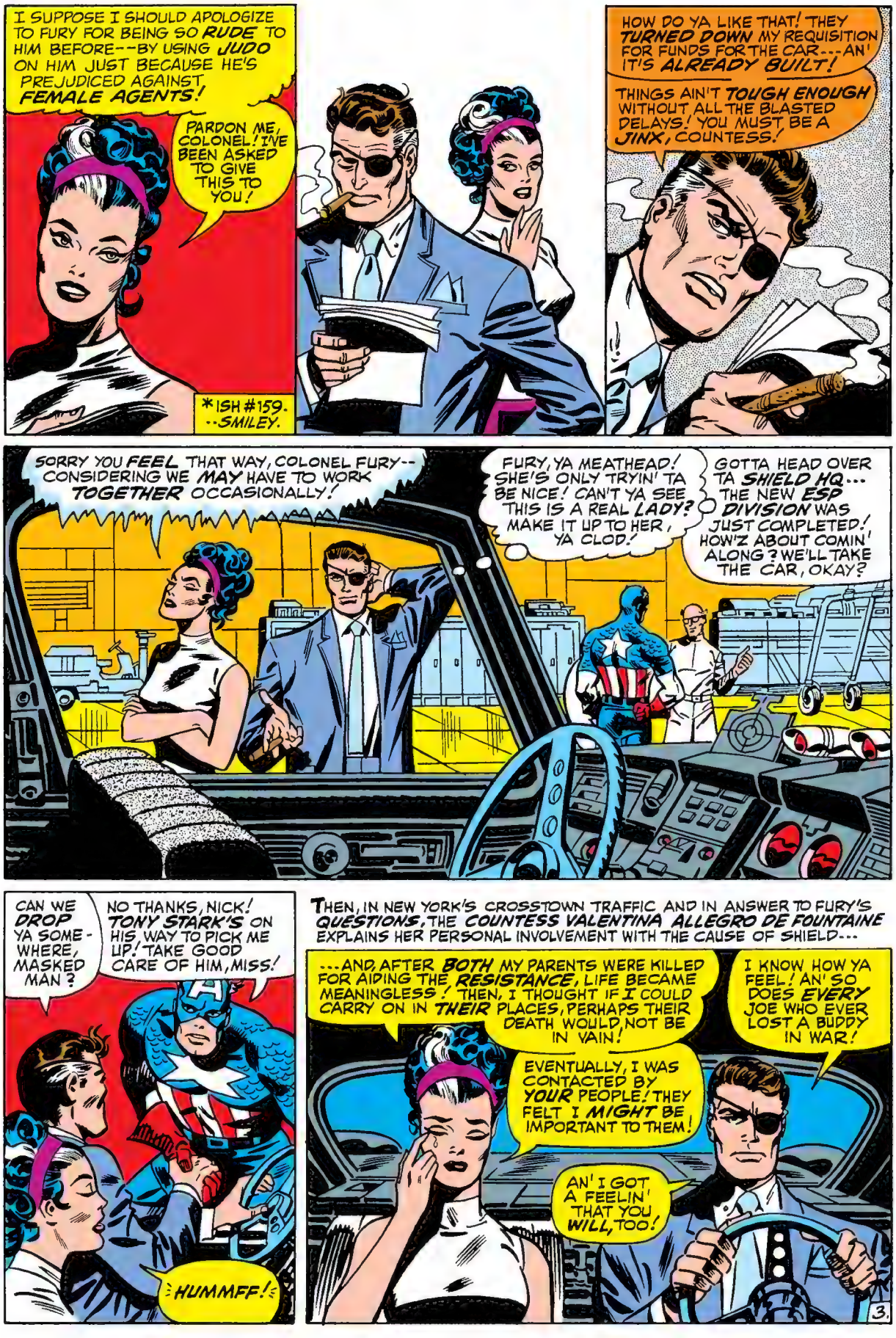
# "SO EVIL, THE NIGHT!"

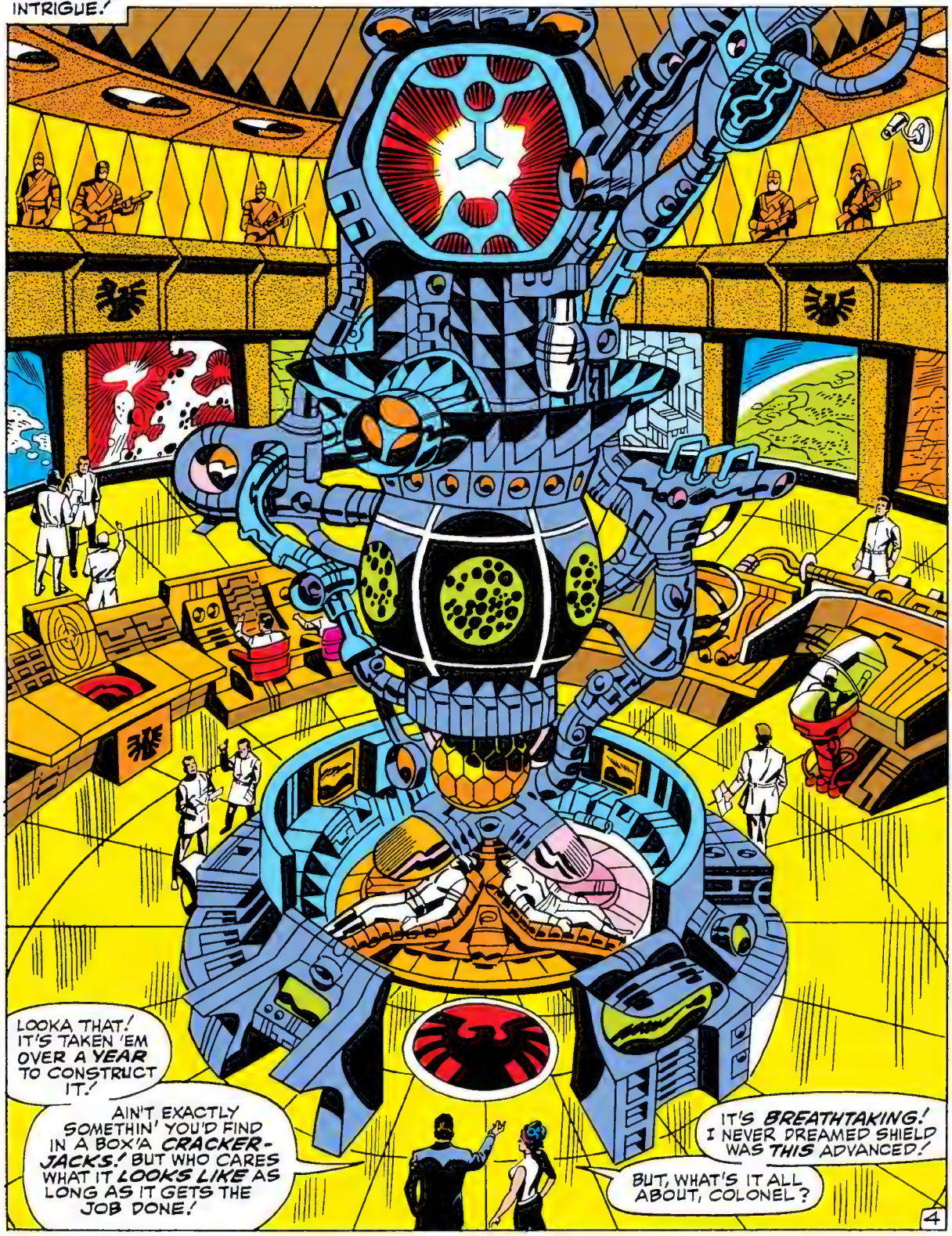

NO...YOU'RE NOT SEEING THINGS! IT'S EXACTLY WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE! REMEMBER A FEW ISHS AGO, WHEN FURY TOLD A NEW RECRUIT TO REPLACE HIS OLD WRECKED CAR WITH ANOTHER? YOU'RE JUST IN TIME TO FASTEN YOUR SEAT BELT...SO LET'S GO! THAT'S AN ORDER!
GOTTA HAND IT TO YA, GAFFER! THIS BABY MAKES MY OLD PORSCHE 904 LOOK LIKE THE METS ON A BAD DAY!
BUT, YA CAN SEE RIGHT THROUGH THE BLAMED THING!
WELL...THIS IS IT, COLONEL FURY! WHEN THE GAFF IS PUTTIN' HIS MIND TA SOMETHING, YA SHOULD KNOW IT'S GONNA BE A REAL BEAUT!
HOPE YA DON'T THINK I OVERDONE IT, BUT IT IS MY FIRST JOB FER SHIELD, Y'KNOW!
RIGHT, NICK! HE'S CAST A FERRARI 330/P4 BERLINETTA OUT OF SOME SORT OF CLEAR FIBER-GLASS...ENGINE AND ALL!
THAT MAKES IT COMPLETELY INVISIBLE FROM A FEW HUNDRED FEET AWAY! ..AND UNDERWATER, TOO! THAT'S WHAT I CALL CAMOUFLAGE!
DANGER

...AND NOW, MAY WE PRESENT THE ONLY MEN IN ALL COMICDOM WHO COULD HAVE PRODUCED THIS SPELLBINDING SUPER-SPY THRILLER OF TWO-FISTED ACTION, MARROW-CHILLING SUSPENSE, AND UNBELIEVABLE PURSUIT... WE GIVE YOU...

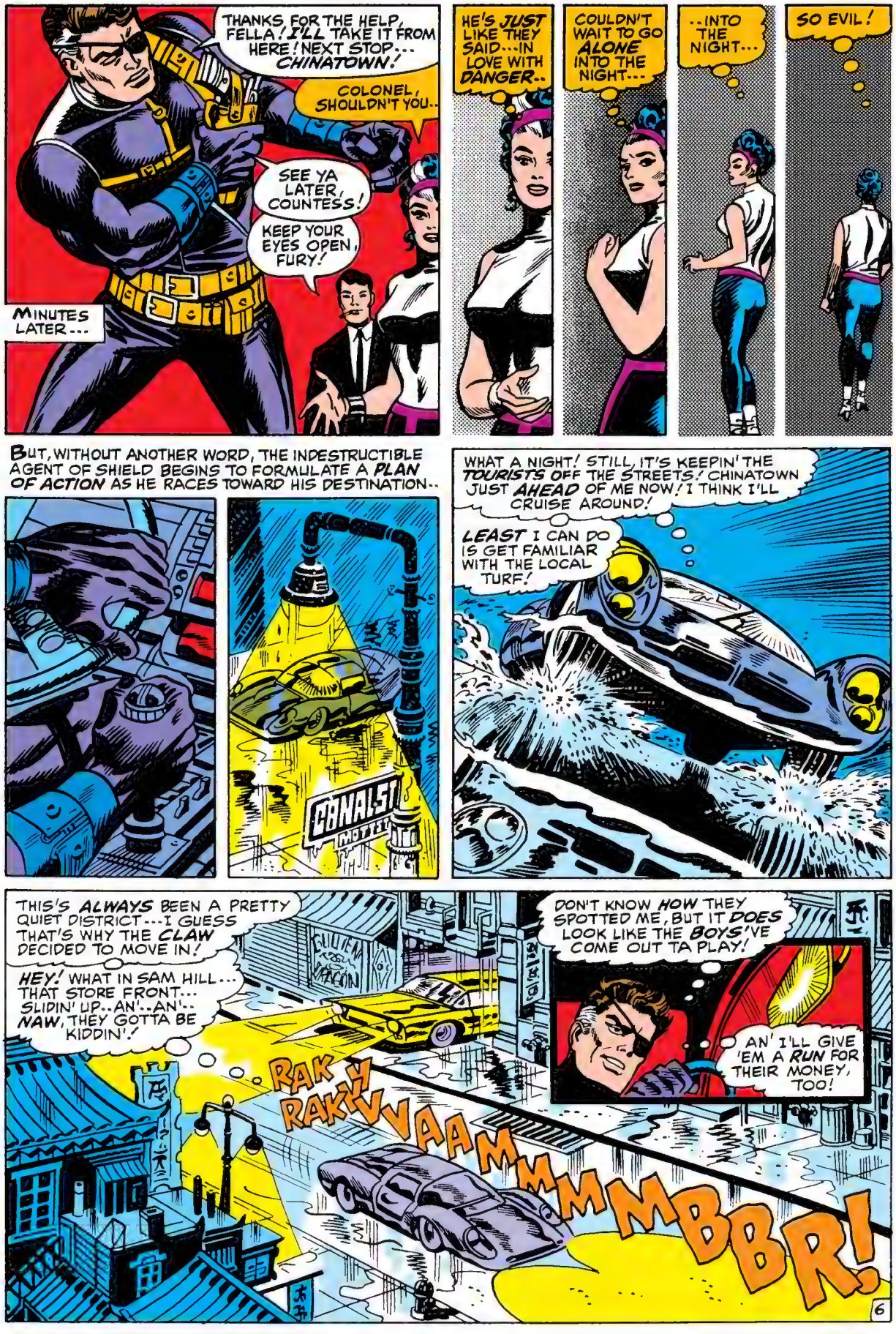
| STAN LEE | JIM STERANKO | FRANK GIACOIA | SAM ROSEN |
|---|---|---|---|
| EDITOR | WRITER / ILLUSTRATOR | INKER | LETTERER |


IT'S DRIVEN BY A V-12 4.4 LITER ENGINE FIRED BY TWIN MARELLI DISTRIBUTORS AN' HAS A FIVE-SPEED GEARBOX! SHE'LL DO ABOUT 200 M.P.H.! AN' THAT'S TRAVELIN'---BELIEVE ME!
THING IS, YA GOTTA GET USED TA FINDIN' THE DOOR HANDLE!
I'M JUST GETTIN' WARMED UP! BESIDES THE USUAL ARSENAL, WHICH AIN'T INSTALLED YET, SHE COMES EQUIPPED WITH A SPECIAL COLOR-CHANGING RHEOSTAT! I'LL SHOW YA!
HEY! LOOKA THAT! THIS GIZMO CAN MAKE IT-YELLOW..
ORANGE...
EVEN RED...
PURPLE...
THERE'S BLUE...
AND BLACK, TOO! SON OF A GUN!
YA CAN DRIVE IT BY REMOTE CONTROL WITH THAT GADGET, TOO!
I REPLACED THE OLD MACH-PRESSURE FAN JETS IN THE WHEELS WITH MINIATURE VORTEX BEAMS, LIKE WHAT YA USE IN YER HELI-CARRIER! NOW YA CAN MANEUVER BETTER! A'COURSE, IF YA GOTTA DRIVE AT NIGHT WITHOUT BEIN' SPOTTED, USE THE INFRA-RED HEADLIGHTS! THE WINDSHIELD'S TREATED SO YOU CAN SEE CLEAR AS DAYLIGHT!
GAFFER, I'LL BET YER A RIOT WITH AN ERECTOR SET! GOOD TA HAVE YA ON OUR SIDE, MISTER! YOU GOT ME CONVINCED!
YEAH! WAIT'LL THAT GUY BOND GETS A LOAD'A THAT BABY!
2.


I SUPPOSE I SHOULD APOLOGIZE TO FURY FOR BEING SO RUDE TO HIM BEFORE--BY USING JUDO ON HIM JUST BECAUSE HE'S PREJUDICED AGAINST FEMALE AGENTS!
PARDON ME, COLONEL! I'VE BEEN ASKED TO GIVE THIS TO YOU!
*ISH #159. --SMILEY.
HOW DO YA LIKE THAT! THEY TURNED DOWN MY REQUISITION FOR FUNDS FOR THE CAR---AN' IT'S ALREADY BUILT!
THINGS AIN'T TOUGH ENOUGH WITHOUT ALL THE BLASTED DELAYS! YOU MUST BE A JINX, COUNTESS!
SORRY YOU FEEL THAT WAY, COLONEL FURY-- CONSIDERING WE MAY HAVE TO WORK TOGETHER OCCASIONALLY!
FURY, YA MEATHEAD! SHE'S ONLY TRYIN' TA BE NICE! CAN'T YA SEE THIS IS A REAL LADY? MAKE IT UP TO HER, YA CLOD!
GOTTA HEAD OVER TA SHIELD HQ... THE NEW ESP DIVISION WAS JUST COMPLETED! HOW'Z ABOUT COMIN' ALONG? WE'LL TAKE THE CAR, OKAY?
CAN WE DROP YA SOMEWHERE, MASKED MAN?
NO THANKS, NICK! TONY STARK'S ON HIS WAY TO PICK ME UP! TAKE GOOD CARE OF HIM, MISS!
HUMMFF!
THEN, IN NEW YORK'S CROSSTOWN TRAFFIC AND IN ANSWER TO FURY'S QUESTIONS, THE COUNTESS VALENTINA ALLEGRO DE FOUNTAINE EXPLAINS HER PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT WITH THE CAUSE OF SHIELD---
...AND, AFTER BOTH MY PARENTS WERE KILLED FOR AIDING THE RESISTANCE, LIFE BECAME MEANINGLESS! THEN, I THOUGHT IF I COULD CARRY ON IN THEIR PLACES, PERHAPS THEIR DEATH WOULD NOT BE IN VAIN!
I KNOW HOW YA FEEL! AN' SO DOES EVERY JOE WHO EVER LOST A BUDDY IN WAR!
EVENTUALLY, I WAS CONTACTED BY YOUR PEOPLE! THEY FELT I MIGHT BE IMPORTANT TO THEM!
AN' I GOT A FEELIN' THAT YOU WILL, TOO!
3.


AND, NOT LONG AFTERWARD, FURY AND HIS LOVELY COMPANION MAKE THEIR WAY INTO A DAZZLING SECRET INNER SANCTUM, THE ULTIMATE DEFENSE--- THE INCREDIBLE ESP CHAMBER! HERE, A SCORE OF SHIELD SENTRIES STAND GUARD OVER A TEEMING THRONG OF TECHNOS, THE ARCHITECTS OF THE TOWERING COMMUNICATOR BEAM COMPLEX! HERE, GIGANTIC COMPUTERS SYNCHRONIZE FRAGMENTED BRAINWAVE PATTERNS AND UNBELIEVABLE THOUGHT ILLUSIONS WHILE SEARING COLORS EXPLODE ACROSS A SERIES OF PARABOLIC REFLECTORS! HERE DWELL A HANDFUL OF SPECIALLY CHOSEN MEN AND WOMEN, WHO POSSESS EXTRAORDINARY MIND-EXPANDING POWERS FAR OUTSIDE THE PERIMETER OF ORDINARY BRAINS! HERE, THEY WATCH AND WAIT AS A COMBINATION OF SUPER-CEREBRAL CORTEXES SHATTER PARANORMAL DIMENSIONS OF TIME AND SPACE, SEARCHING WITH POWERFUL TELEPATHIC PROBES ACROSS THE MILLENIA, ATTEMPTING TO ECLIPSE THE UNKNOWN, TO UNLEASH DEADLY SECRETS IN THE KILL-OR-BE-KILLED GAME OF INTERNATIONAL INTRIGUE!
LOOKA THAT! IT'S TAKEN 'EM OVER A YEAR TO CONSTRUCT IT!
AIN'T EXACTLY SOMETHIN' YOU'D FIND IN A BOX'A CRACKER-JACKS! BUT WHO CARES WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE AS LONG AS IT GETS THE JOB DONE!
IT'S BREATHTAKING! I NEVER DREAMED SHIELD WAS THIS ADVANCED!
BUT, WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT, COLONEL?
4

IF YER LUCKY, YOU'RE GONNA SEE IT IN ACTION IN ANOTHER MINUTE OR TWO! I SEE WE'RE EXPECTIN' A GUEST JUST ABOUT NOW!
JIMMY WOO ON THE WAY UP, SIR!
HOW GOES IT, FURY? YOU BOYS AT SHIELD HAVE THE TIGHTEST SET-UP I'VE BEEN THROUGH YET! EVEN AN OLD F.B.I. MAN LIKE ME GOT THE SECURITY TREATMENT!
BETTER BELIEVE IT, MISTER! YA LEARN TA GET REEEEAL CAREFUL IN THIS BUSINESS AFTER A WHILE!
YA ALREADY KNOW THE COUNTESSA, HUH?
HI, JIMMY!
MOMENTS LATER, THE F.B.I. AGENT IS SEATED IN A TELEPATHIC BOOTH...
YOU KNOW THE YELLOW CLAW BEST, PAL! WE'RE DEPENDIN' ON YA! THINK!
THEN, CONCENTRATING EVERY ERG OF ENERGY ON HIS OLD ARCH-ENEMY, JIMMY WOO ATTEMPTS TO ESTABLISH A PSYCHO-PHYSICAL CONTACT---
HE DID IT! LOOK AT THE MAP! THE YELLOW CLAW'S HERE... IN NEW YORK!
IN CHINA-TOWN!
YEAH! THAT COULD MEAN ONLY ONE THING... WHATEVER IT IS HE'S PLANNING IS GONNA COME OFF... SOON!
THEN--THEN THERE'S ONLY ONE COURSE WE CAN TAKE...
RIGHT! WE GOTTA GET HIM... BEFORE HE GETS THE WHOLE COUNTRY!
HOLD IT, FURY! YOU DON'T KNOW THE CLAW LIKE I DO! YOU'LL NEED ALL THE HELP YOU CAN GET... TO KEEP FROM GETTING YOURSELF KILLED!
THAT'S THE NAME OF THE GAME, MISTER! IT'S SHIELD'S BABY NOW!
5.


THANKS FOR THE HELP, FELLA! I'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE! NEXT STOP... CHINATOWN!
COLONEL, SHOULDN'T YOU..
SEE YA LATER, COUNTESS!
KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN, FURY!
MINUTES LATER...
HE'S JUST LIKE THEY SAID...IN LOVE WITH DANGER..
COULDN'T WAIT TO GO ALONE INTO THE NIGHT...
..INTO THE NIGHT...
SO EVIL!
BUT, WITHOUT ANOTHER WORD, THE INDESTRUCTIBLE AGENT OF SHIELD BEGINS TO FORMULATE A PLAN OF ACTION AS HE RACES TOWARD HIS DESTINATION..
CANAL ST. MOTEL
WHAT A NIGHT! STILL, IT'S KEEPIN' THE TOURISTS OFF THE STREETS! CHINATOWN JUST AHEAD OF ME NOW! I THINK I'LL CRUISE AROUND!
LEAST I CAN DO IS GET FAMILIAR WITH THE LOCAL TURF!
THIS'S ALWAYS BEEN A PRETTY QUIET DISTRICT---I GUESS THAT'S WHY THE CLAW DECIDED TO MOVE IN!
HEY! WHAT IN SAM HILL... THAT STORE FRONT... SLIDIN' UP..AN'..AN'.. NAW, THEY GOTTA BE KIDDIN'!
DON'T KNOW HOW THEY SPOTTED ME, BUT IT DOES LOOK LIKE THE BOYS'VE COME OUT TA PLAY!
AN' I'LL GIVE 'EM A RUN FOR THEIR MONEY, TOO!
RAK RAK VVAAMMMMBBR!
6

STREET'S TOO NARROW TA REALLY GET THIS CRATE MOVIN' AND LOSE 'EM! MAYBE I'LL USE THE V-BEAM AND GET HER INTO THE AIR AN'...
UH-OH!
BLIP! BLIP! BLIP! BLIP!
SCANNERS SHOW SOMETHIN' ALREADY ABOVE ME! THESE JOKERS ARE PLAYIN' FER KEEPS!
GOTTA BAIL OUT BEFORE THEY PUT THE OL' SQUEEZE PLAY ON ME!
YEAH! SO I'LL MAKE THE FIRST MOVE BEFORE THEY MANEUVER ME INTO A TRAP!
I'LL JUMP WHILE I'M IN THE SHADOWS AND KEEP THE CAR MOVIN' BY REMOTE CONTROL STEERIN'!
TOO BAD I AIN'T GOT ONE'A THEM CAPES THAT MAKE YA FLY LIKE THOSE NUTTY GUYS ON TV!
THIS SUCTION DISC BETTER WORK...IT'S MY ONE CHANCE TA GET A GOOD GRIP ON THE CAR AS IT GOES BY!
AN' IT LOOKS LIKE ONE CHANCE IS ALL I'M GONNA GET!
7.

UGHHH!
LANDED ON MY BLASTED SHOULDER! CRIPES.. ANYTHING TA MAKE IT TOUGHER THAN IT IS!
AT LEAST, THE DISK IS HOLDING OUT.. BUT FER HOW LONG!
WOK!
HEY! WHAT THE --- TRYIN' TA SHAKE ME OFF --- SKIDDIN' THE CAR -- LIKE A COUPLA LADY DRIVERS!
JUST LIKE RIDIN' THE BACK OF THE BUS WHEN I WAS A KID!
EEEKKS
EEEEEEEEEE
AWRIGHT, YA CLOWNS, HAVE YER FUN.. FURY'S JUST COMIN' UP TA BAT!
C'MON OUTTA THERE, YA --- HEY!! WHAT GIVES? CAN'T I BLAST MY WAY INTO THIS BOX?
SKANNNNG!
LOOKS LIKE I GOT 'EM RIGHT WHERE THEY WANT ME!
13
LET'S GIVE MR. FURY A LITTLE SURPRISE! OPEN THE TRUNK, NUMBER 12!
NUTS! I SHOULDA FIGURED AS MUCH!
NOTHIN' LESS THAN AN ARMOR-PIERCIN' SHELL IS GONNA OPEN THIS TIN CAN!
8.

THE YELLOW CLAW'S VENGEANCE STRIKES WITHOUT WARNING, INTRUDER! NONE MAY LIVE TO DEFY THE IMPERIAL ONE!
THRAK!
LET YOUR FINAL THOUGHTS BE OF HIM---
WHO ASKS NO MERCY--WHO GIVES NONE!
FOR THIS BLOW IS STRUCK IN HIS NAME!
THEN, SOCK IT TO ME, PAL---
IF YA CAN!
CRUNCH!
HE HAS DEFEATED ASSASSIN ONE! IF WE FAIL, IT WILL COST US OUR LIVES!
QUICKLY, TWELVE... USE YOUR HAND WEAPON!
KILL FURY NOW!
I MUST STRIKE NOW --WHILE HIS BACK IS TURNED! DIE, FOOL.. DIE!
BLAM!
13
9

HAD TA TURN MY BACK...HOPIN' THEY'D OPEN UP INSIDE! THESE PUNKS ALL THINK ALIKE!
UGH! CAR'S STARTIN' TA ROLL OVER!
GOTTA JUMP... AFTER I GET OFF A FEW MORE ROUNDS!
WRAM!
SCORE ONE POINT FER SHIELD! THIS OUGHTTA LET THE YELLOW CLAW KNOW HE AIN'T GONNA COME FOOLIN' AROUND OUR BACK YARD WITHOUT IT COSTING HIM!
CURIOS
INSTANTLY, THE WRECKAGE IS CONSUMED BY A SEARING TEMPEST OF RAGING FIRE... YET, THE INDOMITABLE AGENT IS STILL ABLE TO PULL ONE FROM WITHIN THE BOILING PAROXYSM...
YA AIN'T GOT MORE'N A COUPLA MINUTES, MISTER! WHAT'S BEHIND ALL THIS?
I..I HAVE FAILED.. IN MY MISSION.. THAT THE MASTER.. ORDERED!
FAILURE..MEANS ONLY..SURE DEATH--THE YELLOW CLAW.. HAS SO ORDAINED!

NOTHIN' I CAN DO FER HIM NOW! BUT... MEBBE THERE'S SOMETHIN' HE CAN DO FOR ME! THE STREET'LL BE SWARMIN' WITH PEOPLE SOON... GOTTA MOVE NOW!
IF I CAN ONLY MAKE MY WAY BACK TA THE PLACE THAT CAR CAME OUTTA!
YEAH! IF I'M GONNA FIND ANY ANSWERS.. I'LL FIND 'EM THERE!
NOW, I'LL NEED THIS GUY'S JACKET!
NEXT, THE BELT...
THIS HELMET'S GONNA BE A BIG HELP...
..AN' THE SHADES!
13

THEN, SLOWLY, WITH INFINITE CAUTION, NICK FURY WEAVES HIS WAY BACK THROUGH A MAZE OF DARK, DAMP PASSAGEWAYS INTO THE HEART OF CHINATOWN...
THAT SHOP SHOULD BE JUST AT THE END'A THIS ALLEYWAY!
HERE GOES NOTHIN'!

13

WHO ENTERS THE HOUSE OF FANG-CHU? SPEAK QUICKLY... FOR HESITATION MAY PROVE DANGEROUS TO HIM WHO LINGERS IN SHADOWS!

A THOUSAND PARDONS, EXALTED AND ENLIGHTENED ONE! THIS HUMBLE SERVANT RETURNS FROM HIS MISSION!
WHEW! AM I GLAD THE LATE, LATE SHOW RUNS THOSE OLD CHARLIE CHAN FLICKS!

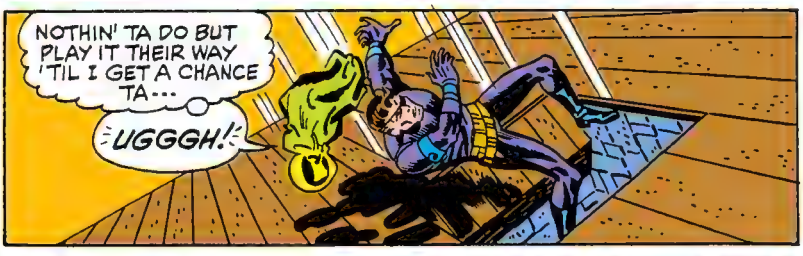
AAH! SO, THEN, MAKE YOUR REPORT! HAS YOUR OBJECTIVE MET HIS FATE? HAVE YOU DISPOSED OF YOUR SWORN ENEMY--THE SHIELD AGENT?
GOTTA PLAY IT COOL, FURY! WISH HE'D STEP INTA THE LIGHT SO'S I COULD GET A GOOD LOOK!

THE TASK HAS BEEN COMPLETED, MAGNIFICENT ONE! THE SON OF A JACKAL HAS, INDEED, BEEN DISPATCHED--CRUSHED LIKE AN INSECT, AS YOU HAVE COMMANDED!
EXCELLENT! A JUST REWARD SHOULD BEFIT SO GREAT A DEED! BEHIND YOU...

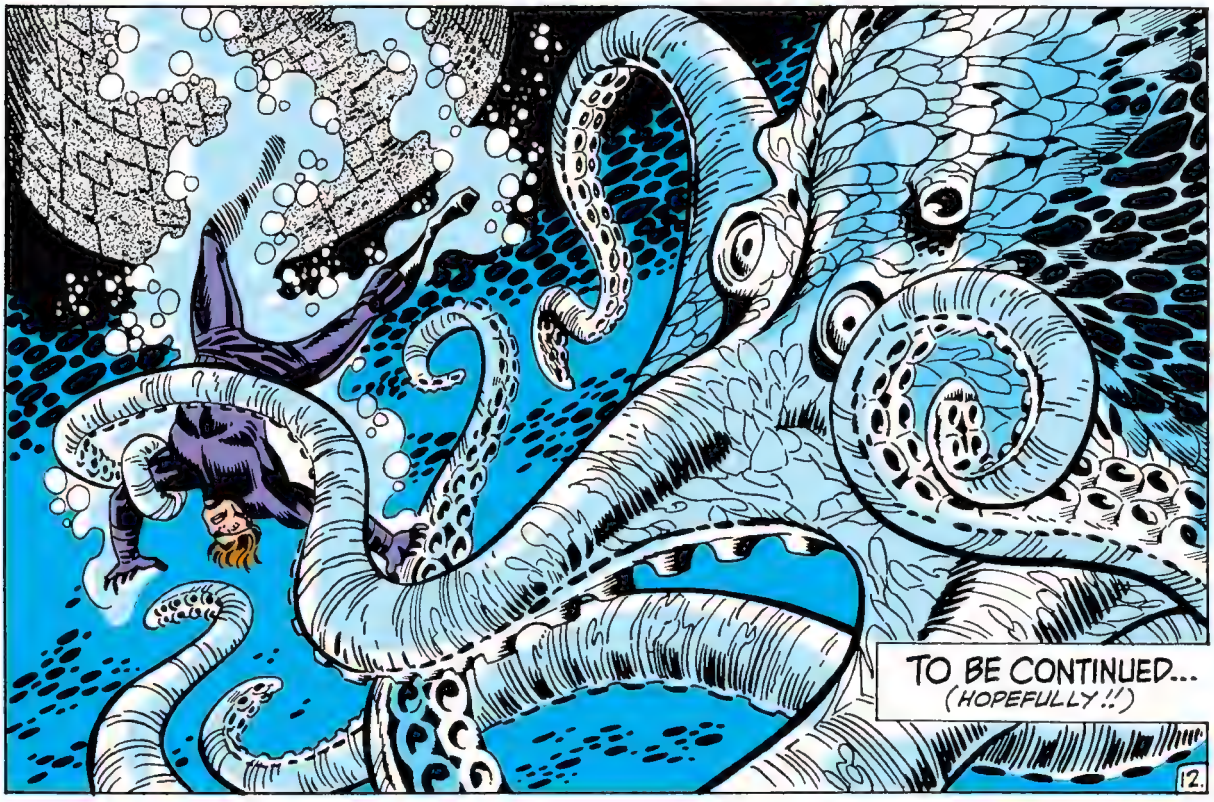
MAKE NO FALSE MOVE, HERR FURY-- OR IT VILL BE YOUR LAST!
HAD A FEELIN' SOMEONE WAS WAITIN' IN THE SHADOWS ---KEEPIN' A GUN ON ME!
LOOKS LIKE YA CAUGHT ME WITH MY PLANS DOWN, HUH?

ALLOW ME INTRODUCE... MYSELF... FRITZ VON VOLTZMANN, IN THE SERVICE OF THE YELLOW CLAW! A PITY WE CANNOT TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO GET TO KNOW YOU BETTER!

ENOUGH, VOLTZMANN! NO TIME TO PLAY WITH WORDS! REMOVE THE UNIFORM SO THAT WE MAY SEE YOU GAZE IN FEAR BEFORE YOU DIE, DOG OF DOGS!




SUDDENLY, WITHOUT WARNING, A HIDDEN TRAP IN THE FLOOR IS TRIGGERED BY A CONCEALED FOOTSWITCH NEAR THE YELLOW CLAW --- SENDING THE SHIELD RAMROD INTO A DEEP UNDERGROUND WELL, WHERE WAITS A WRITHING NIGHTMARISH FORM, A MONSTROUS MASS OF SWIRLING DEATH...



STRANGE TALES
NICK FURY, AGENT OF SHIELD
DOCTOR STRANGE
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
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163 DEC
MCG
STERANKO
"AND THE DRAGON CRIED...DEATH!"

# NICK FURY, AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D.™

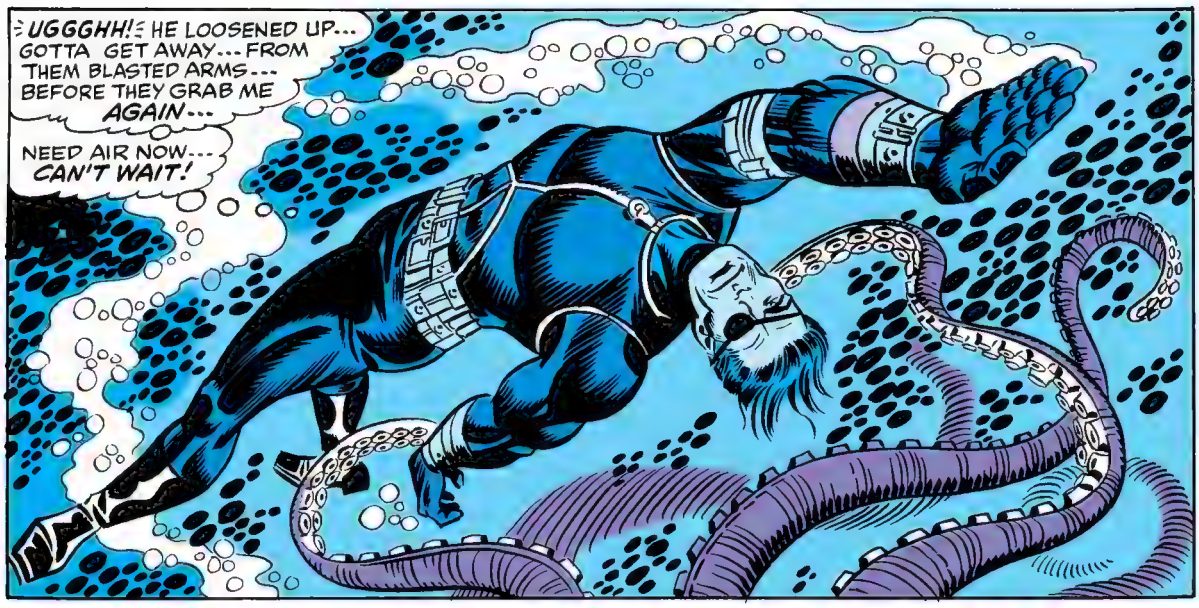
SUPREME HEADQUARTERS INTERNATIONAL ESPIONAGE LAW-ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

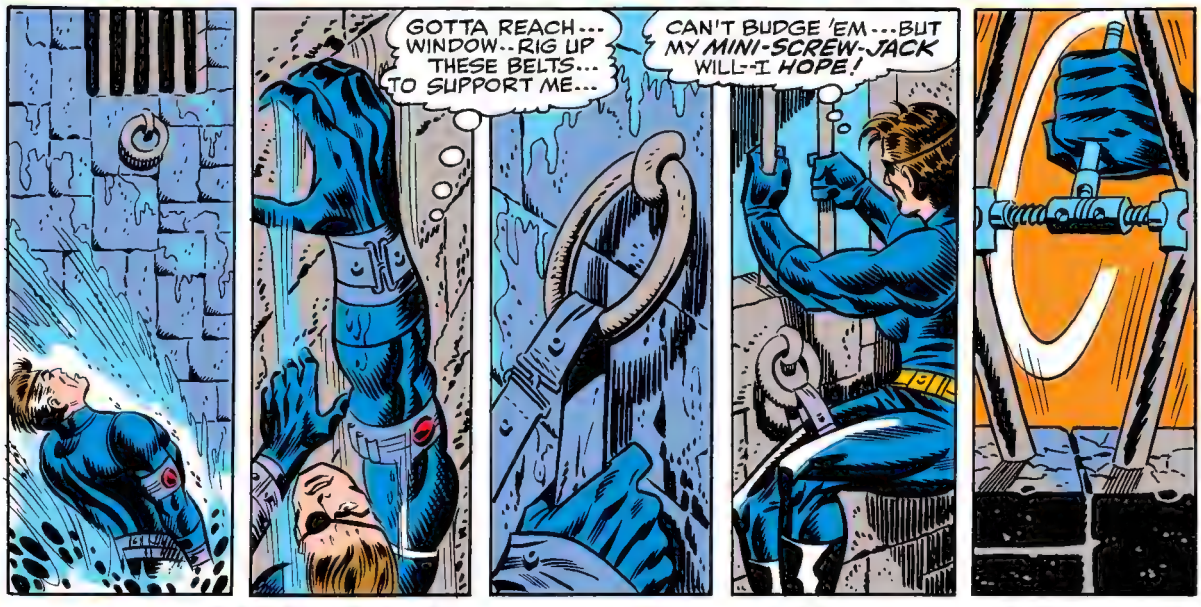
"AND THE DRAGON CRIED... DEATH!"
REMEMBER LAST ISH? IF NOT, THIS SHOULD HELP JOG YOUR MEMORY, TIGER! NO TIME FOR RECAPS NOW --- JUST DIG THE 3-D MULTI-LENS-STEREO-REFRACTOR SYSTEM, AND HANG ON--- IT'S ONLY THE BEGINNING!
JA! HERR CLAW! THE FOOL BLUNDERED INTO YOUR TRAP EXACTLY AS YOU PLANNED! NOW, THERE CAN BE NO ESCAPE!
OBSERVE, VOLTZMANN! THE SHIELD DOG'S FATE IS SEALED! THE MONSTER CEPHALOPOD IN THE CAVERN BELOW US HAS FOUND HIS QUARRY!
ENOUGH! I AM NO LONGER AMUSED! PRESSING MATTERS AWAIT OUR RETURN! YOU SEE--- THE YELLOW CLAW HAS A NEW UNDER-TAKING THIS VERY NIGHT!

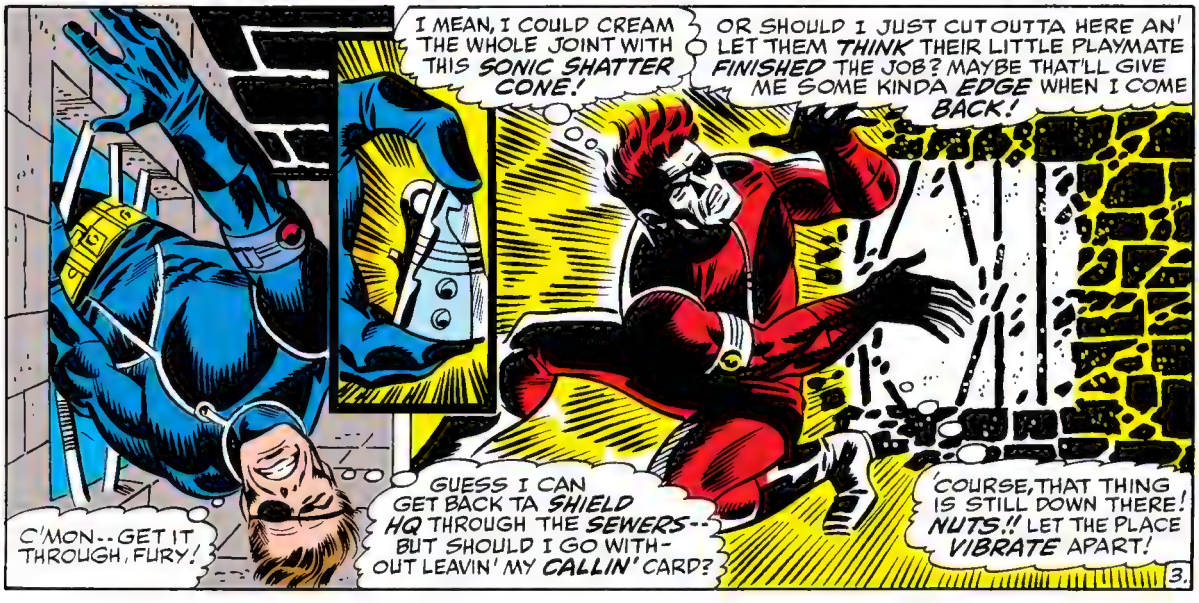
---AND SO, THAT ALL WILL KNOW WHO TOLD THIS NEVER-TO-BE-FORGOTTEN EPIC, WE PROUDLY PRESENT THE CREDITS...

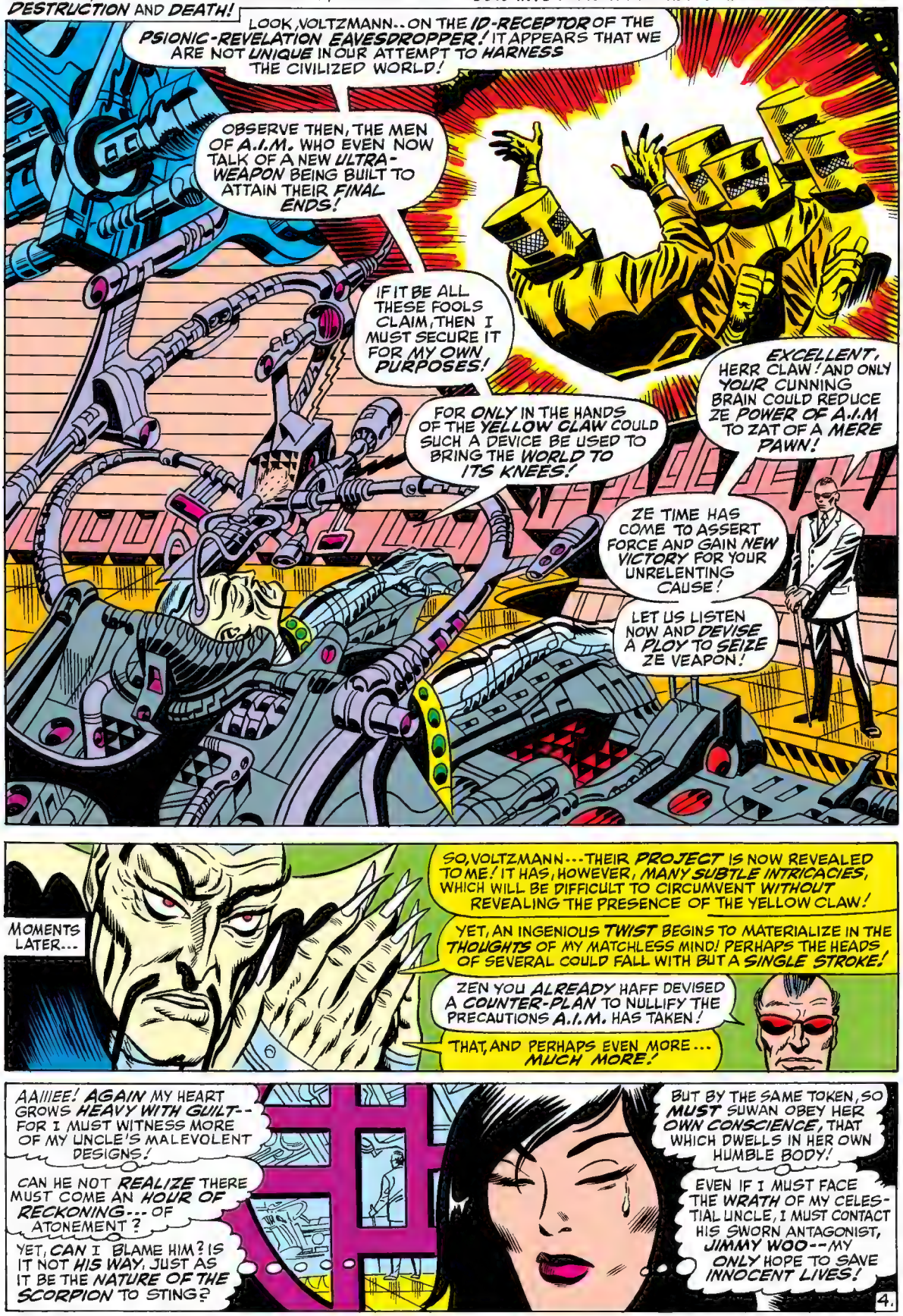
| STAN LEE | JIM STERANKO | FRANK GIACOIA | SAM ROSEN |
|---|---|---|---|
| EDITOR | WRITER/ILLUSTRATOR | INKER | LETTERER |

AND, AT THAT VERY MOMENT, APPROXIMATELY THIRTY FEET BELOW THE TWO CONSPIRATORS, THE DEATH-RATTLE SOUNDS FOR COLONEL NICK FURY...
CRIPES! THAT THING--A GIANT OCTOPUS..WRAPPIN' HIS TENTACLES AROUND ME---SQUEEZIN' THE LIFE OUTTA ME---PULLIN' ME CLOSER---
IF ONLY I COULD GET MY ARMS FREE--- GOTTA TRY--- GOTTA---
UNNNG! NO USE--- LUNGS BURSTIN'--- UNDER TOO LONG.. NO AIR---
WAIT!
OXYGEN TABLET... OXYGEN TABLET... QUICK!
IT'S DISSOLVIN' IN THE WATER--HOPE THERE'S ENOUGH LEFT FOR ME!
FFFFFFF
COUPL'A MORE SECONDS BOUGHT..! GOTTA REACH FOLDIN' BAYONET --IN MY BOOT--!
GOT IT... BUT--BUT CAN IT WORK? ---CAN IT?
I'LL BE WASTED IN ANOTHER SECOND... MUST STRIKE NOW---BUT WHERE--- WHERE--? BETWEEN THE EYES--- WON'T GET ANOTHER CHANCE..!
THIS'S GOTTA DO IT!
2


UGGGHH! HE LOOSENED UP... GOTTA GET AWAY... FROM THEM BLASTED ARMS... BEFORE THEY GRAB ME AGAIN...
NEED AIR NOW... CAN'T WAIT!


GOTTA REACH... WINDOW--RIG UP THESE BELTS... TO SUPPORT ME...
CAN'T BUDGE 'EM... BUT MY MINI-SCREW-JACK WILL--I HOPE!


I MEAN, I COULD CREAM THE WHOLE JOINT WITH THIS SONIC SHATTER CONE!
OR SHOULD I JUST CUT OUTTA HERE AN' LET THEM THINK THEIR LITTLE PLAYMATE FINISHED THE JOB? MAYBE THAT'LL GIVE ME SOME KINDA EDGE WHEN I COME BACK!
C'MON--GET IT THROUGH, FURY!
GUESS I CAN GET BACK TA SHIELD HQ THROUGH THE SEWERS-- BUT SHOULD I GO WITH-OUT LEAVIN' MY CALLIN' CARD?
'COURSE, THAT THING IS STILL DOWN THERE! NUTS!! LET THE PLACE VIBRATE APART!
3.


MEANWHILE, THE INSCRUTABLE ORIENTAL MASTERMIND HAS ARRIVED AT HIS HIDDEN UNDERGROUND SANCTUM, A VAST CATACOMB OF STEEL AND GLASS, A COMPLEX INNER DOMINION LOCATED IN THE VERY HEART OF NEW YORK CITY ITSELF! HERE, IN THIS INCREDIBLE MULTIPLICITY, THE YELLOW CLAW SETS INTO MOTION ANOTHER DIABOLICAL SCHEME OF DESTRUCTION AND DEATH!
LOOK, VOLTZMANN.. ON THE ID-RECEPTOR OF THE PSIONIC-REVELATION EAVESDROPPER! IT APPEARS THAT WE ARE NOT UNIQUE IN OUR ATTEMPT TO HARNESS THE CIVILIZED WORLD!
OBSERVE THEN, THE MEN OF A.I.M. WHO EVEN NOW TALK OF A NEW ULTRA-WEAPON BEING BUILT TO ATTAIN THEIR FINAL ENDS!
IF IT BE ALL THESE FOOLS CLAIM, THEN I MUST SECURE IT FOR MY OWN PURPOSES!
FOR ONLY IN THE HANDS OF THE YELLOW CLAW COULD SUCH A DEVICE BE USED TO BRING THE WORLD TO ITS KNEES!
EXCELLENT, HERR CLAW! AND ONLY YOUR CUNNING BRAIN COULD REDUCE ZE POWER OF A.I.M TO ZAT OF A MERE PAWN!
ZE TIME HAS COME TO ASSERT FORCE AND GAIN NEW VICTORY FOR YOUR UNRELENTING CAUSE!
LET US LISTEN NOW AND DEVISE A PLOY TO SEIZE ZE VEAPON!
MOMENTS LATER...
SO, VOLTZMANN---THEIR PROJECT IS NOW REVEALED TO ME! IT HAS, HOWEVER, MANY SUBTLE INTRICACIES, WHICH WILL BE DIFFICULT TO CIRCUMVENT WITHOUT REVEALING THE PRESENCE OF THE YELLOW CLAW!
YET, AN INGENIOUS TWIST BEGINS TO MATERIALIZE IN THE THOUGHTS OF MY MATCHLESS MIND! PERHAPS THE HEADS OF SEVERAL COULD FALL WITH BUT A SINGLE STROKE!
ZEN YOU ALREADY HAFF DEVISED A COUNTER-PLAN TO NULLIFY THE PRECAUTIONS A.I.M. HAS TAKEN!
THAT, AND PERHAPS EVEN MORE... MUCH MORE!
AAIIIEE! AGAIN MY HEART GROWS HEAVY WITH GUILT-- FOR I MUST WITNESS MORE OF MY UNCLE'S MALEVOLENT DESIGNS!
CAN HE NOT REALIZE THERE MUST COME AN HOUR OF RECKONING--- OF ATONEMENT?
YET, CAN I BLAME HIM? IS IT NOT HIS WAY, JUST AS IT BE THE NATURE OF THE SCORPION TO STING?
BUT BY THE SAME TOKEN, SO MUST SUWAN OBEY HER OWN CONSCIENCE, THAT WHICH DWELLS IN HER OWN HUMBLE BODY!
EVEN IF I MUST FACE THE WRATH OF MY CELESTIAL UNCLE, I MUST CONTACT HIS SWORN ANTAGONIST, JIMMY WOO--MY ONLY HOPE TO SAVE INNOCENT LIVES!
4.

AND, AT THAT VERY MOMENT, IN ANOTHER SECTION OF MANHATTAN, THE INDESTRUCTIBLE AGENT OF SHIELD HAS RETURNED TO HIS BASE OF OPERATIONS TO PREPARE FOR A COUNTERATTACK AGAINST ANY NEW, UNEXPECTED THRUST OF TREACHERY... NEVER FOR A MOMENT SUSPECTING HOW SOON HE WILL AGAIN BE LOCKED IN MORTAL COMBAT WITH THE MOST EXTRAORDINARY MASTER KILLER HE HAS EVER ENCOUNTERED... THE YELLOW CLAW!

WELCOME BACK, COLONEL! I EXPECTED THE WORST WHEN I TRACKED YOUR FERRARI BY ITS HOMING SIGNAL AND FOUND YOU WERE MISSING!

I SUPPOSE I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN YOU HAVE NINE LIVES EVEN WHERE THE YELLOW CLAW IS CONCERNED!

BETTER BELIEVE IT! BUT HE PLAYS PLENTY ROUGH! OCTOPUS-RASSLIN' AIN'T NEVER GONNA REPLACE SHOOTIN' MARBLES!.. YA SEE, THE STAKES ARE HIGH AN' WE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT HE'S AFTER!

CAN'T MAKE MUCH DIFFERENCE ANYWAY! WHATEVER IT IS, WE'VE GOT TO PUT THE KIBOSH ON HIM... OR ELSE!

COLONEL FURY... DOUBLE A PRIORITY CALL COMING IN FROM F.B.I. AGENT JAMES WOO!

SWITCH HIM ON THE SCREEN, SOLDIER!

FURY! HANG ON, BUDDY! THIS IS A BIG ONE! I JUST RECEIVED A MESSAGE FROM SUWAN, THE CLAWS' NIECE! SHE SAYS HE'S ABOUT TO GRAB A SUPER-WEAPON DEVELOPED BY A.I.M. CALLED THE ULTIMATE ANNIHILATOR! THAT MAKES IT YOUR BABY! YOU'VE GOT TO INTERCEPT IT! HERE'S THE DETAILS...

SCANT MOMENTS LATER...

YOU CAN'T TACKLE A.I.M. BY YOURSELF, COLONEL! YOU'LL NEED SOMEONE TO BACK YOU UP!

YOU'RE RIGHT, COUNTESS! I SURE COULD USE GABE JONES OR DUM DUM DUGAN NOW!

BUT THERE'S ANOTHER WHO WENT THROUGH UNIT'S SPY SCHOOL WITH ME! I TOOK THE LIBERTY OF CALLING HIM HERE!

YEAH! WHO?

HI! CLAY QUARTERMAIN AT YOUR SERVICE! BEEN LOOKIN' FORWARD TO A LITTLE ACTION! NOW THAT IT'S HERE, I KNOW IT'LL BE A REAL PLEASURE FIGHTIN' SIDE-BY-SIDE WITH YOU, COLONEL FURY!

LET ME REASSURE YOU ABOUT ANY DOUBT YOU MAY HAVE! I'VE HANDLED EVERY JOB FROM BODY-GUARD TO BIG GAME HUNTER! THE TOUGHER IT IS, THE MORE I LIKE IT! ANYTIME, ANY PLACE, ANY WEAPONS! YOU SEE, IN MY HEART OF HEARTS, I FANCY DANGER IN A RATHER UNCOMMON WAY!

IS THIS A CONVERSATION OR A MONOLOG?

OK, MISTER! YOU CAN COME ALONG, JUST 'CAUSE I'M CURIOUS TA KNOW IF YA GRAPPLE AS WELL AS YA TALK! I'LL BRIEF YA ON THE WAY!

HE MAY BEND YOUR EAR, COLONEL, BUT IT'LL BE WORTH IT... YOU'LL SEE!

THANKS, SWEETHEART! BE BACK IN A SEC, COLONEL! GOTTA GET MY GEAR!

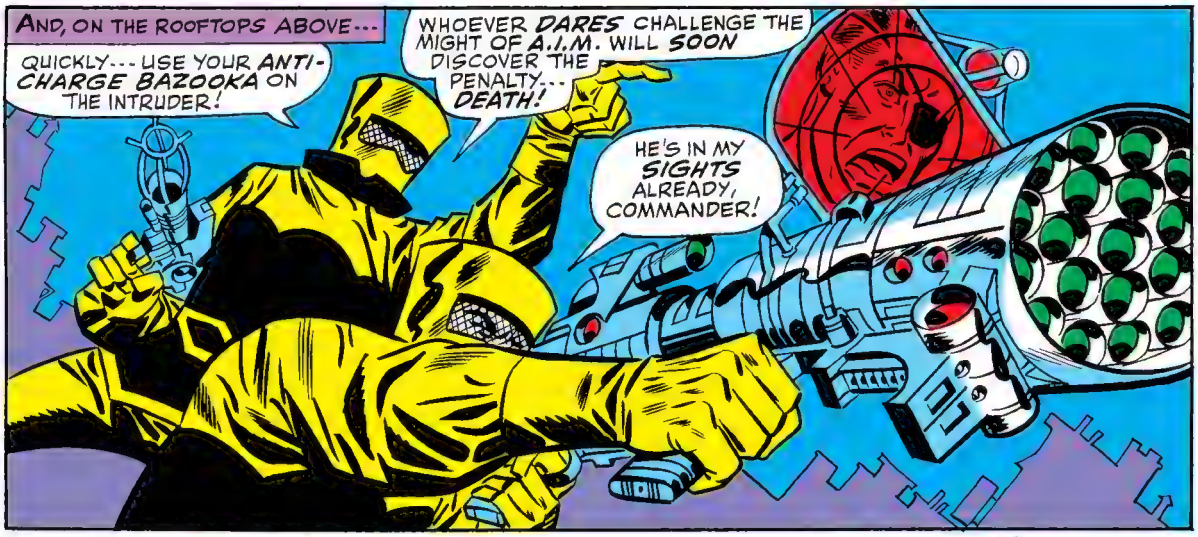
NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, COUNTESS... YA BEEN A BIG HELP TO ME!

IT'S MY JOB, COLONEL! BUT YOU CAN DO ME A FAVOR... CALL ME VAL... OKAY?

OKAY, VAL! KEEP AN EYE ON THINGS 'TIL I GET BACK! AN' KEEP YER FINGERS CROSSED!

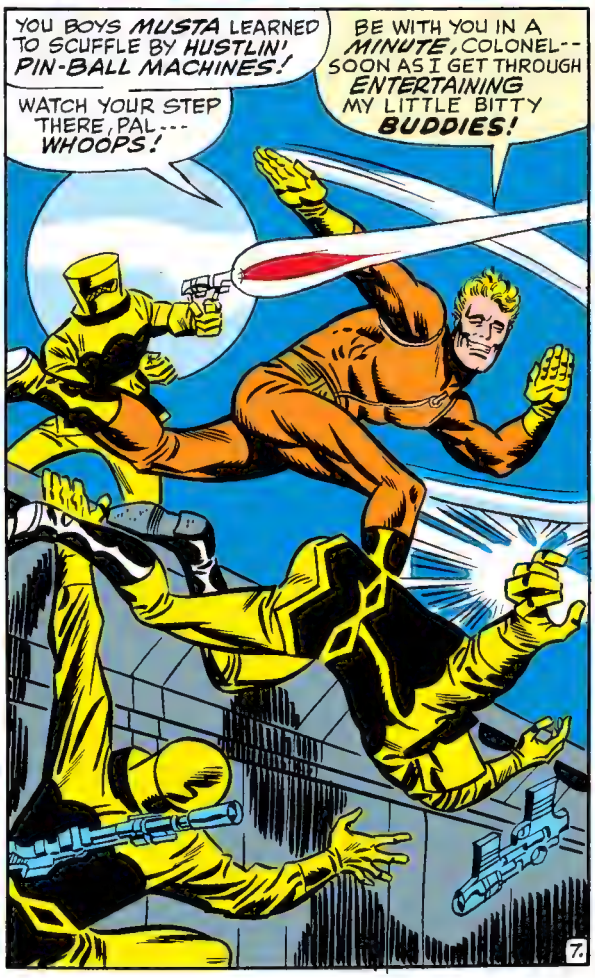
NOT FAR AWAY FROM CHINATOWN, THE NOW-DESERTED WATERFRONT DISTRICT SPRAWLS BENEATH AN OMINOUS FOG-SHROUDED SKY... AND THROUGH ITS EVER-SHIFTING SHADOWS, *LURKING EVIL* MOVES ABOUT FURTIVELY, AND THE HEAVY SILENCE IS BROKEN BY ECHOING FOOTSTEPS...

...AND AS THE SINISTER DRAMA UNFOLDS, STILL *ANOTHER* OF ITS MANY PLAYERS MAKES HIS ENTRANCE... ONE THAT IS UNEXPECTED AND STARTLING--AND LADEN WITH THE PROMISE OF SUDDEN *DEATH*...


AND, ON THE ROOFTOPS ABOVE---
QUICKLY--- USE YOUR ANTI-CHARGE BAZOOKA ON THE INTRUDER!
WHOEVER DARES CHALLENGE THE MIGHT OF A.I.M. WILL SOON DISCOVER THE PENALTY--- DEATH!
HE'S IN MY SIGHTS ALREADY, COMMANDER!

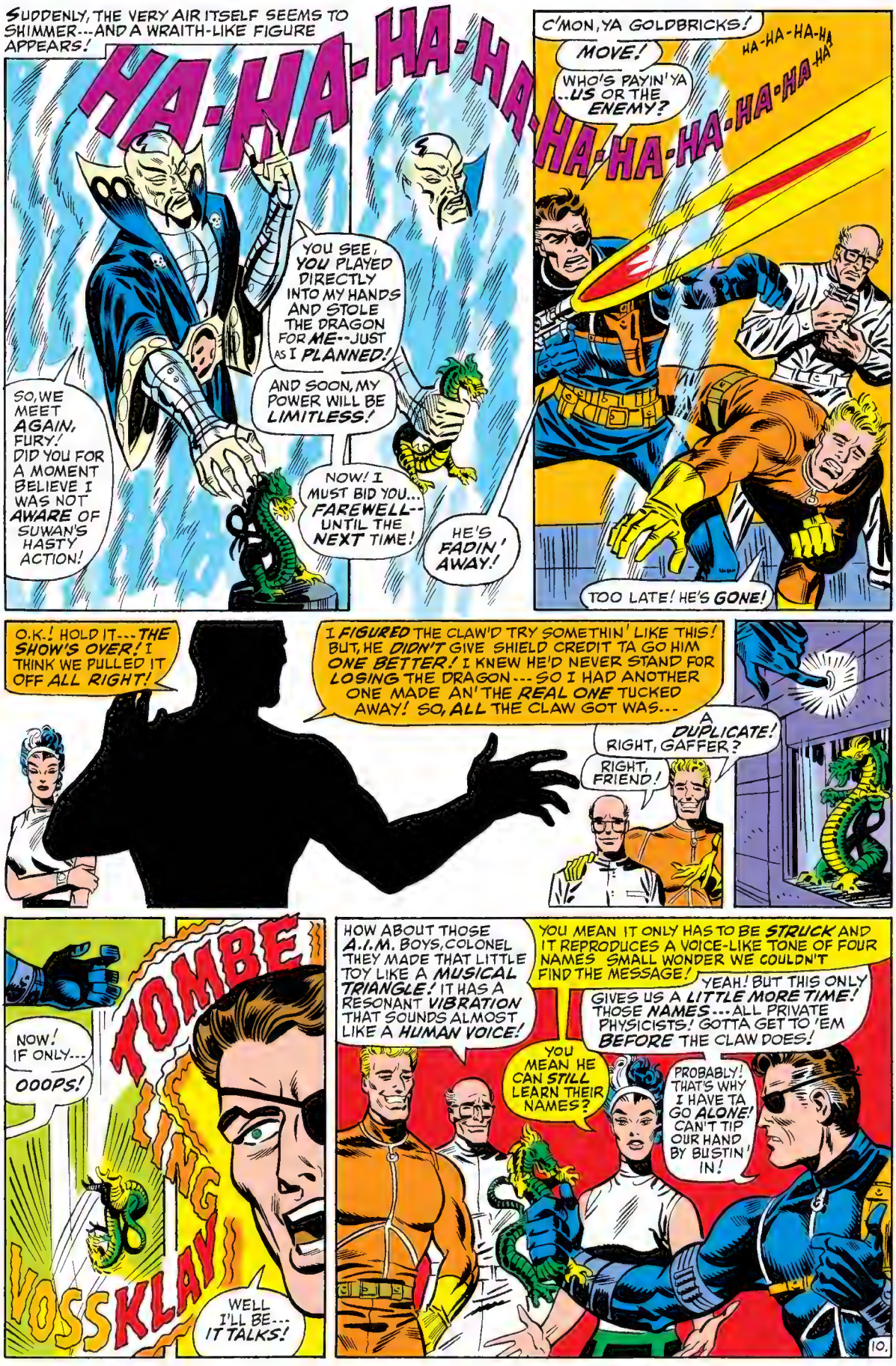
BUT EVEN AS THE A.I.M. SNIPER SQUEEZES THE LETHAL WEAPON'S TRIGGER, HE AND HIS PARTNER ARE ENSNARED BY A STRANGE DEVICE HURTLING FROM SOMEWHERE BEHIND THEM---

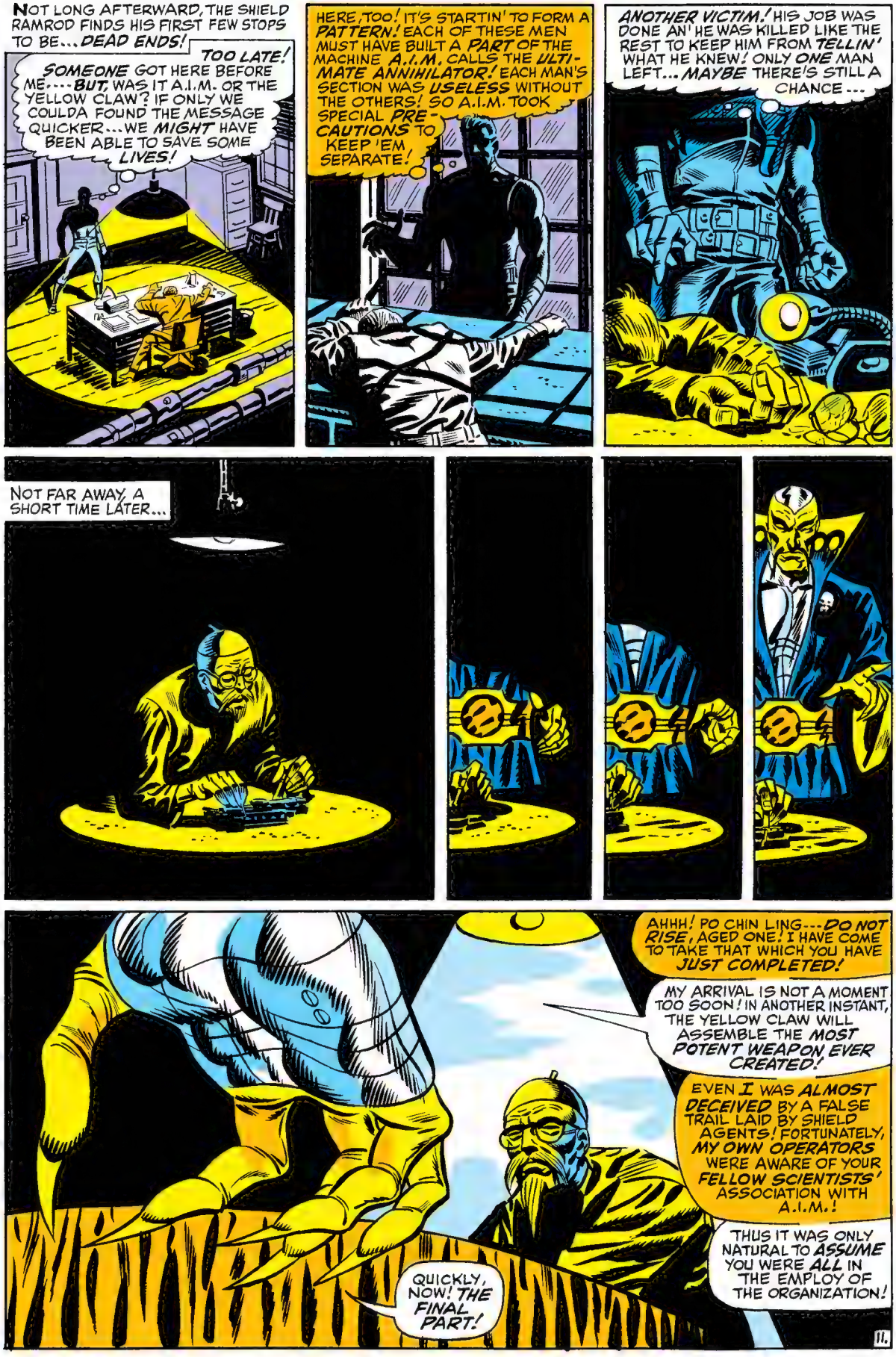
THIS A PRIVATE TEA PARTY OR CAN ANYONE COME?
AN' IN CASE YOU'RE WONDERING, GENTS, THAT LITTLE TOY OF MINE IS AN ARGENTINE BOLA!
PITY YOU FORGOT THE NUMBER ONE RULE OF THE SPY GAME---NEVER STOP LOOKIN' OVER YOUR SHOULDER!
--COMPLIMENTS OF SHIELD!
BWROOK!


YOU BOYS MUSTA LEARNED TO SCUFFLE BY HUSTLIN' PIN-BALL MACHINES!
WATCH YOUR STEP THERE, PAL--- WHOOPS!
BE WITH YOU IN A MINUTE, COLONEL--- SOON AS I GET THROUGH ENTERTAINING MY LITTLE BITTY BUDDIES!

BASH!
PAY ATTENTION, MISTER! WHILE FURY PUTS THE FINISHIN' TOUCHES TO THESE CHORUS BOYS!
BWONK!
I'M HIP! NICE DOUBLE PLAY, CHIEF!
GOT THE PACKAGE... OUR OBJECTIVE IS IN GOOD HANDS!
HOW COME YER SO GOOD TA ME?
KRAK!
NET PROFIT.- ONE HUNDRED PER CENT!
NOT BAD FOR A NIGHT'S WORK!
NOT EXACTLY ANYTHING TO WRITE HOME ABOUT!
WELL, I'M READY TO LEAVE ANYTIME YOU ARE..SINCE THESE CLOWNS KINDA WENT TO SLEEP ON ME!
THAT WAS MORE LIKE A WALTZ THAN A FIGHT!
YEAH! WELL, SUPPOSE YOU STAY HERE AN' KEEP WATCHIN' 'EM! I'M HEADIN' BACK TA SHIELD, MISTER! REPORT BACK TO ME AS SOON AS THESE GUYS ARE PICKED UP!

THEN, LATER THAT EVENING, THE OBJECT OF FURY'S QUEST STANDS REVEALED WITHIN THE CONFINES OF SHIELD'S STRONGHOLD--- REVEALED AS AN ORNATELY-HEWN FIGURINE OF A CHINESE DEVIL-DRAGON... WHOSE VERY APPEARANCE SEEMS TO MENACE THOSE WHO WOULD CHANCE TO GAZE INTO THE GOLDEN EYES OF THE SHIMMERING GREEN EFFIGY! SHIELD TECHNOS HAVE ATTEMPTED TO WREST ITS DEADLY SECRETS FROM WITHIN THE COILS OF THE SWIRLING, BIZARRE FIGURE...IN VAIN!
YEAH! WE KNOW IT CONTAINS A MESSAGE ABOUT A.I.M., COLONEL--BUT WE SURE CAN'T FIND IT!
WE STUDIED IT UNDER MAGNIFYING LENSES, X-RAYED IT, HELD CHEMICAL-CATALYST TESTS, THE WORKS---THERE'S NOTHING THERE!
NOT A LOUSY MICRO-DOT OR LOOSE SCALE ON THE THING!
MAYBE IT'S NOTHIN' MORE'N A PAPER WEIGHT! MAYBE WE GOT THE WRONG INFO OR SUMPTHIN'!
NO CHANCE! IT'S GOTTA BE CARRYIN' SOME KINDA SECRET! YA KNOW BLAMED WELL A.I.M. AIN'T GONNA MAKE IT EASY TO FIND---IT'S HERE SOMEWHERE--AN' WE CAN'T TAKE TOO MUCH TIME FINDIN' IT, EITHER!
NOT WITH A.I.M. AN' THE YELLOW CLAW FIGHTIN' BACK TO BACK TO GET IT!
YEAH! I GOT A HUNCH WHATEVER THIS THING'S HIDIN', IT'S GONNA MEAN THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WINNIN' AN' LOSIN' THIS LITTLE SKIRMISH!
I'M WITH YOU, CHIEF! THOSE BIRDS WERE PLAYIN' FOR KEEPS! THIS ONE'S THE McCOY!
I AGREE! BUT, IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU HAVE A PREMONITION OF THINGS TO COME, COLONEL FURY!
I DON'T BLAME YOU, THOUGH! JUST LOOKING AT THAT STATUE GIVES ME THE CHILLS!
IT ALMOST SEEMS TO BE...ALIVE!
9.


SUDDENLY, THE VERY AIR ITSELF SEEMS TO SHIMMER---AND A WRAITH-LIKE FIGURE APPEARS!
HA-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA
YOU SEE, YOU PLAYED DIRECTLY INTO MY HANDS AND STOLE THE DRAGON FOR ME--JUST AS I PLANNED!
AND SOON, MY POWER WILL BE LIMITLESS!
NOW! I MUST BID YOU... FAREWELL--UNTIL THE NEXT TIME!
HE'S FADIN' AWAY!
SO, WE MEET AGAIN, FURY! DID YOU FOR A MOMENT BELIEVE I WAS NOT AWARE OF SUWAN'S HASTY ACTION!
C'MON, YA GOLDBRICKS! MOVE!
WHO'S PAYIN' YA ..US OR THE ENEMY?
HA-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA
TOO LATE! HE'S GONE!
O.K.! HOLD IT---THE SHOW'S OVER! I THINK WE PULLED IT OFF ALL RIGHT!
I FIGURED THE CLAW'D TRY SOMETHIN' LIKE THIS! BUT, HE DIDN'T GIVE SHIELD CREDIT TA GO HIM ONE BETTER! I KNEW HE'D NEVER STAND FOR LOSING THE DRAGON--- SO I HAD ANOTHER ONE MADE AN' THE REAL ONE TUCKED AWAY! SO, ALL THE CLAW GOT WAS...
A DUPLICATE! RIGHT, GAFFER?
RIGHT, FRIEND!
TOMBE
LING
VOSSKLAY
NOW! IF ONLY---
OOOPS!
WELL I'LL BE--- IT TALKS!
HOW ABOUT THOSE A.I.M. BOYS, COLONEL THEY MADE THAT LITTLE TOY LIKE A MUSICAL TRIANGLE! IT HAS A RESONANT VIBRATION THAT SOUNDS ALMOST LIKE A HUMAN VOICE!
YOU MEAN IT ONLY HAS TO BE STRUCK AND IT REPRODUCES A VOICE-LIKE TONE OF FOUR NAMES SMALL WONDER WE COULDN'T FIND THE MESSAGE!
YEAH! BUT THIS ONLY GIVES US A LITTLE MORE TIME! THOSE NAMES---ALL PRIVATE PHYSICISTS! GOTTA GET TO 'EM BEFORE THE CLAW DOES!
YOU MEAN HE CAN STILL LEARN THEIR NAMES?
PROBABLY! THAT'S WHY I HAVE TA GO ALONE! CAN'T TIP OUR HAND BY BUSTIN' IN!
10.


NOT LONG AFTERWARD, THE SHIELD RAMROD FINDS HIS FIRST FEW STOPS TO BE... DEAD ENDS!
TOO LATE! SOMEONE GOT HERE BEFORE ME.... BUT, WAS IT A.I.M. OR THE YELLOW CLAW? IF ONLY WE COULDA FOUND THE MESSAGE QUICKER... WE MIGHT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SAVE SOME LIVES!
HERE, TOO! IT'S STARTIN' TO FORM A PATTERN! EACH OF THESE MEN MUST HAVE BUILT A PART OF THE MACHINE A.I.M. CALLS THE ULTIMATE ANNIHILATOR! EACH MAN'S SECTION WAS USELESS WITHOUT THE OTHERS! SO A.I.M. TOOK SPECIAL PRE-CAUTIONS TO KEEP 'EM SEPARATE!
ANOTHER VICTIM! HIS JOB WAS DONE AN' HE WAS KILLED LIKE THE REST TO KEEP HIM FROM TELLIN' WHAT HE KNEW! ONLY ONE MAN LEFT... MAYBE THERE'S STILL A CHANCE ---
NOT FAR AWAY, A SHORT TIME LATER...
AHHH! PO CHIN LING--- DO NOT RISE, AGED ONE! I HAVE COME TO TAKE THAT WHICH YOU HAVE JUST COMPLETED!
MY ARRIVAL IS NOT A MOMENT TOO SOON! IN ANOTHER INSTANT, THE YELLOW CLAW WILL ASSEMBLE THE MOST POTENT WEAPON EVER CREATED!
EVEN I WAS ALMOST DECEIVED BY A FALSE TRAIL LAID BY SHIELD AGENTS! FORTUNATELY, MY OWN OPERATORS WERE AWARE OF YOUR FELLOW SCIENTISTS' ASSOCIATION WITH A.I.M.!
THUS IT WAS ONLY NATURAL TO ASSUME YOU WERE ALL IN THE EMPLOY OF THE ORGANIZATION!
QUICKLY, NOW! THE FINAL PART!
11.

YOU!
FORGET IT, CREEP! I BEAT YA HERE AN' TOOK LING'S PLACE... GOT HIM TUCKED AWAY SAFE'N SOUND!
MAYBE YOU GOT THAT A.I.M. GIZMO --BUT I GOT YOU!
SO, NOW WE'RE PLAYIN' THE GAME MY WAY!

THEN, BY SHEER SUPER-HYPNOTIC POWER, THE DYNAMIC DIRECTOR OF SHIELD IS OVER-WHELMED---
UNNHH!: HE'S... HE'S TAKING OVER MY WILL --- MY MIND ---
NOW YOU SHALL SEE WHY THIS DEVICE IS CALLED THE ULTIMATE ANNIHILATOR...
CAN'T MOVE A MUSCLE --- CAN'T FIGHT BACK --- AT HIS MERCY!

AND SO SAYING, THE TOWERING ORIENTAL DEMON PULLS THE TRIGGER AND AN INEXORABLE HELIX OF SEARING DESTRUCTION EXPLODES FROM THE MUZZLE OF THE AWESOME WEAPON...

NEXT ISSUE:
IN THE LAIR OF
THE YELLOW CLAW!

# NICK FURY, AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D.!™

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS INTERNATIONAL ESPIONAGE LAW-ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

## "WHEN COMES...

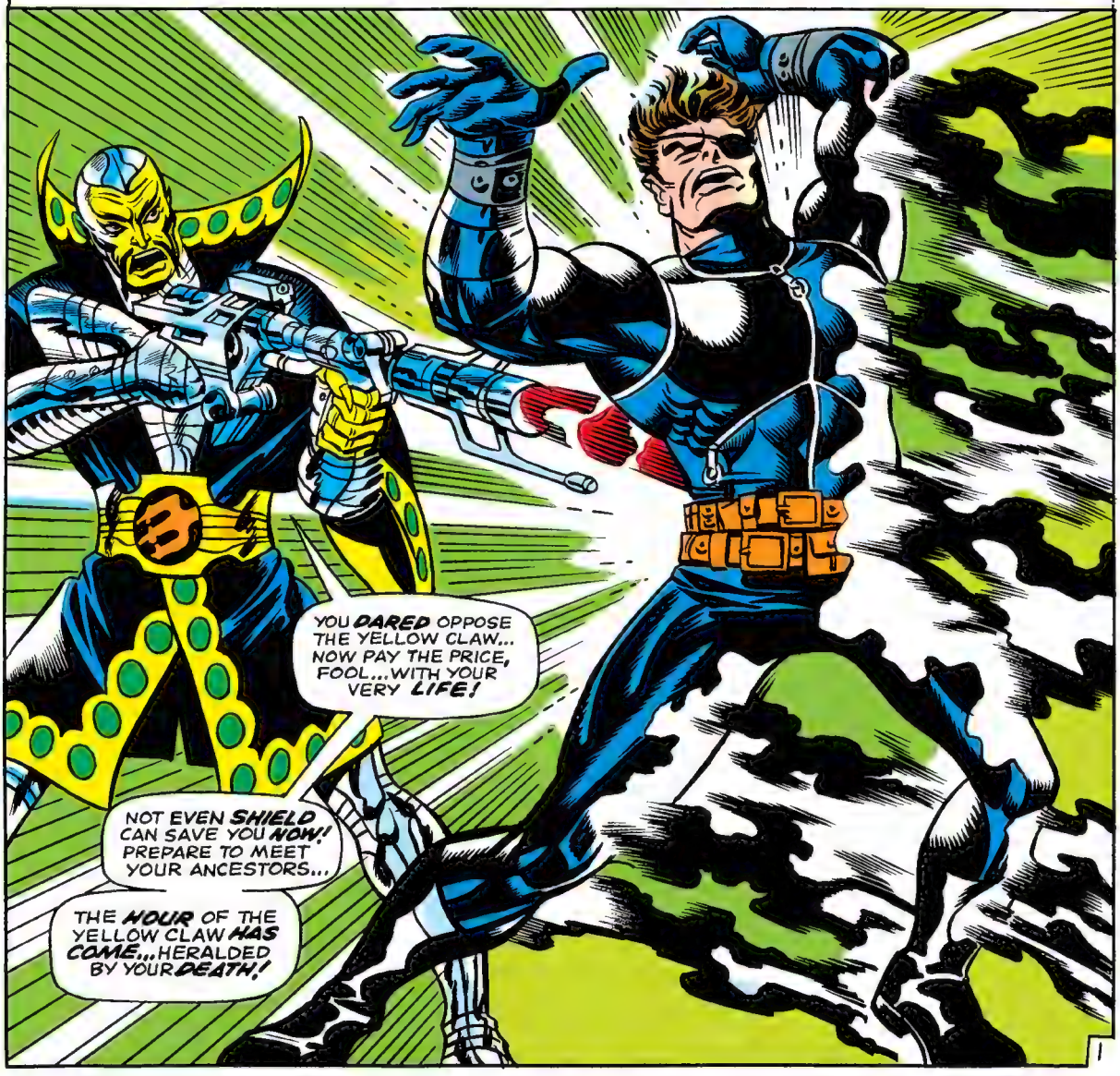
# BLACK NOON!"

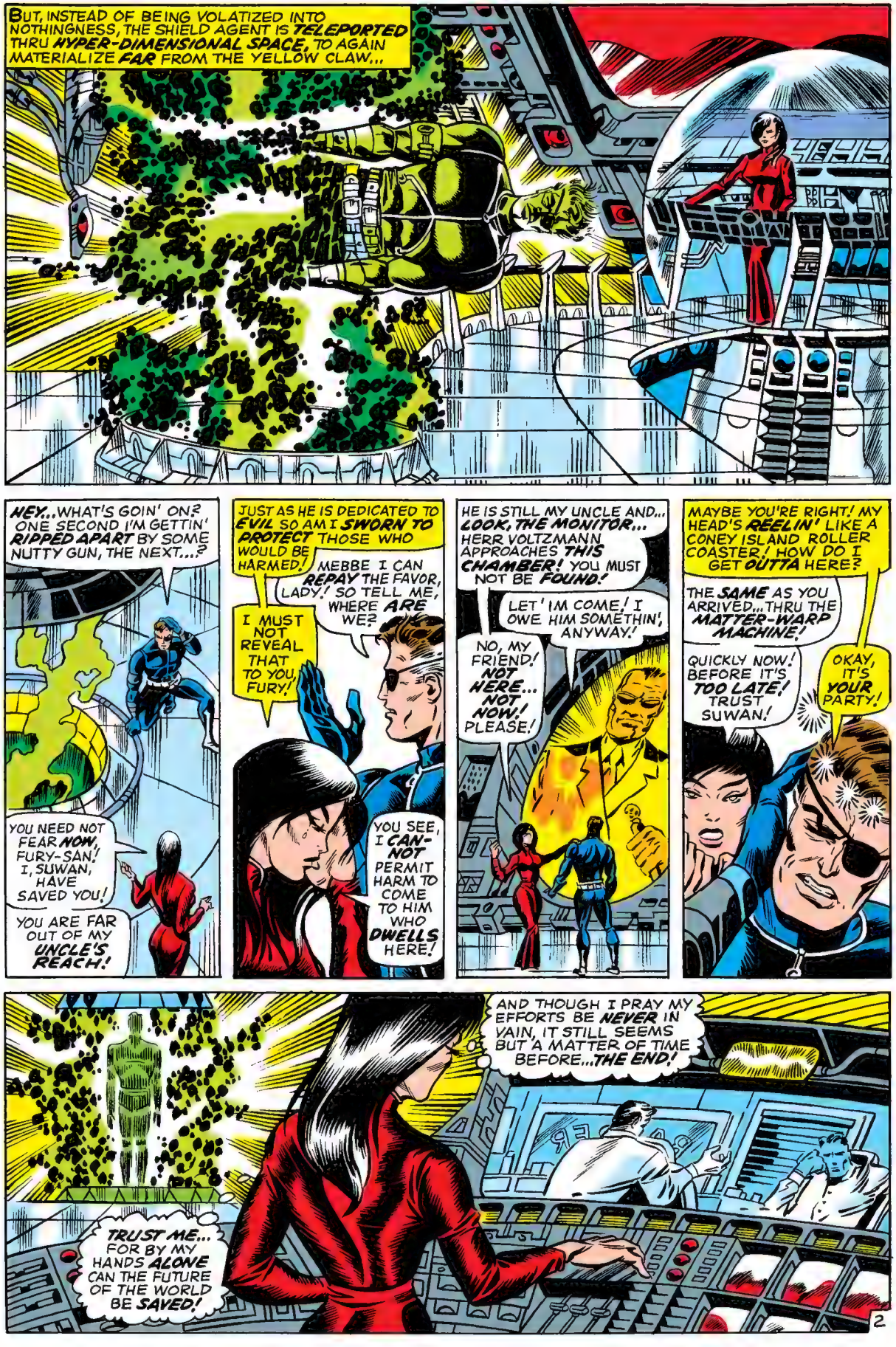
WE *KNOW* YOU DON'T WANT TO FOOL AROUND WITH LONG-WINDED EXPLANATIONS, FAITHFUL ONE! SO SUFFICE IT TO SAY COLONEL NICK FURY'S TRAP FOR THE ORIENTAL MASTERMIND *BACKFIRED*, AND NOW HE FINDS *HIMSELF* IN THE SIGHTS OF A DIABOLIC NEW WEAPON CALLED THE... *ULTIMATE ANNIHILATOR...*

NOW PREPARE YOURSELF FOR A TWELVE-PAGE *HAPPENING*... ART NOUVEAU MARVEL-STYLE BY THESE CONTEMPORARY COMIC GENIUSES!

STAN LEE • JIM STERANKO
EDITOR — WRITER/ILLUSTRATOR

BILL EVERETT • ARTIE SIMEK
INKER — LETTERER


YOU *DARED* OPPOSE THE YELLOW CLAW... NOW PAY THE PRICE, FOOL...WITH YOUR VERY *LIFE!*
NOT EVEN *SHIELD* CAN SAVE YOU *NOW!* PREPARE TO MEET YOUR ANCESTORS...
THE *HOUR* OF THE YELLOW CLAW *HAS COME*...HERALDED BY YOUR *DEATH!*


BUT, INSTEAD OF BEING VOLATIZED INTO NOTHINGNESS, THE SHIELD AGENT IS TELEPORTED THRU HYPER-DIMENSIONAL SPACE, TO AGAIN MATERIALIZE FAR FROM THE YELLOW CLAW...
HEY...WHAT'S GOIN' ON? ONE SECOND I'M GETTIN' RIPPED APART BY SOME NUTTY GUN, THE NEXT...?
YOU NEED NOT FEAR NOW, FURY-SAN! I, SUWAN, HAVE SAVED YOU!
YOU ARE FAR OUT OF MY UNCLE'S REACH!
JUST AS HE IS DEDICATED TO EVIL SO AM I SWORN TO PROTECT THOSE WHO WOULD BE HARMED!
I MUST NOT REVEAL THAT TO YOU, FURY!
MEBBE I CAN REPAY THE FAVOR, LADY! SO TELL ME, WHERE ARE WE?
YOU SEE, I CAN-NOT PERMIT HARM TO COME TO HIM WHO DWELLS HERE!
HE IS STILL MY UNCLE AND... LOOK, THE MONITOR... HERR VOLTZMANN APPROACHES THIS CHAMBER! YOU MUST NOT BE FOUND!
LET 'IM COME! I OWE HIM SOMETHIN', ANYWAY!
NO, MY FRIEND! NOT HERE... NOT NOW! PLEASE!
MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT! MY HEAD'S REELIN' LIKE A CONEY ISLAND ROLLER COASTER! HOW DO I GET OUTTA HERE?
THE SAME AS YOU ARRIVED...THRU THE MATTER-WARP MACHINE!
QUICKLY NOW! BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE! TRUST SUWAN!
OKAY, IT'S YOUR PARTY!
AND THOUGH I PRAY MY EFFORTS BE NEVER IN VAIN, IT STILL SEEMS BUT A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE...THE END!
TRUST ME... FOR BY MY HANDS ALONE CAN THE FUTURE OF THE WORLD BE SAVED!

AND, AT THAT SELFSAME MOMENT, SOMEWHERE ACROSS MANHATTAN, THE MEN WHO KEEP A VIGIL AT SHIELD'S BARBER SHOP ENTRANCE ARE LITTLE AWARE OF THE EVENTS ABOUT TO BE FORTHCOMING...

SO IT'S LIKE I TELL YOU, SLIM, IF MEN'S HAIR STYLES KEEP LOOKING THE WAY THEY DO, WE'RE GONNA BE OUTTA BUSINESS!

JUST THE OTHER DAY THIS GUY COMES IN, SEE... HAIR DOWN TO HERE! SO, HE SITS DOWN IN THE CHAIR AND ASKS FOR A SHAVE! SHEESH!

AWW, MAN! RIGHT ABOUT NOW I DON'T CARE WHO COMES IN! IF THIS PLACE GETS ANY QUIETER, WE COULD START SAYIN' MASS!

MAYBE WE OUGHTTA...

WHAT IN THE...?

COMIN' THRU THE CEILING!

LOOK OUT! IT'S DROPPING TOWARDS THE FLOOR!

MUST BE SOME KINDA NEW WEAPON! SOUND THE ALARM!

SHINE 15¢

YEAH!

AFTER THIS, REMIND ME TO KEEP MY MOUTH SHUT!

WAIT! THE THING'S TAKING ON A HUMANOID SHAPE!

HOLD IT! IT-- IT'S FURY! QUICK, SLIM, GET THE DOOR!

WHOOPS! SORRY, MISTER, WE'RE CLOSED! THE BOSS JUST GAVE US THE DAY OFF!

TAKE IT EASY, CHUM! YOU ACT LIKE I'M AN ENEMY SPY!

CLOSED

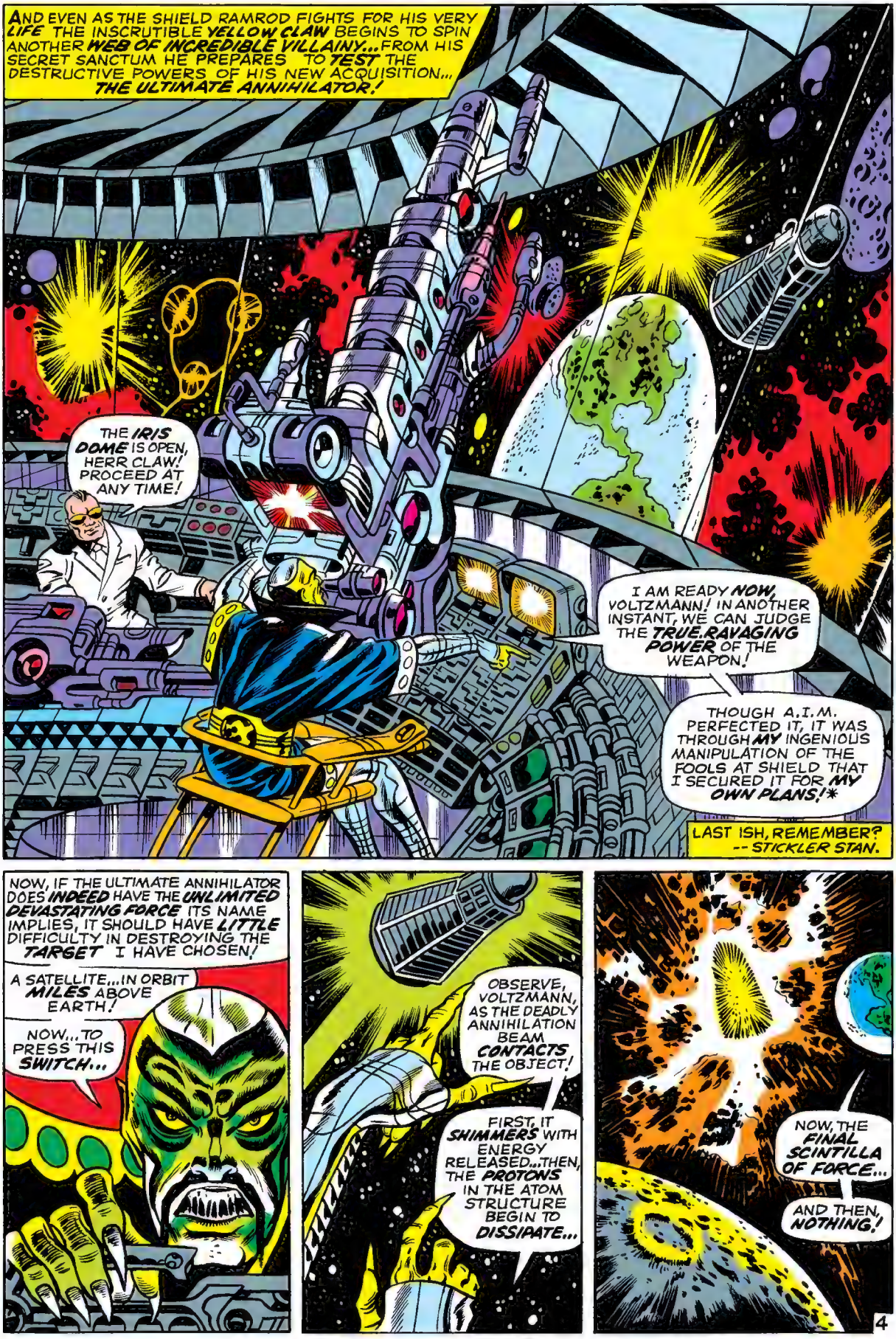
HUSTLE IT UP, SLIM! IT'S FURY ALL RIGHT... BUT SOMETHING'S WRONG! HE'S UNCONSCIOUS!

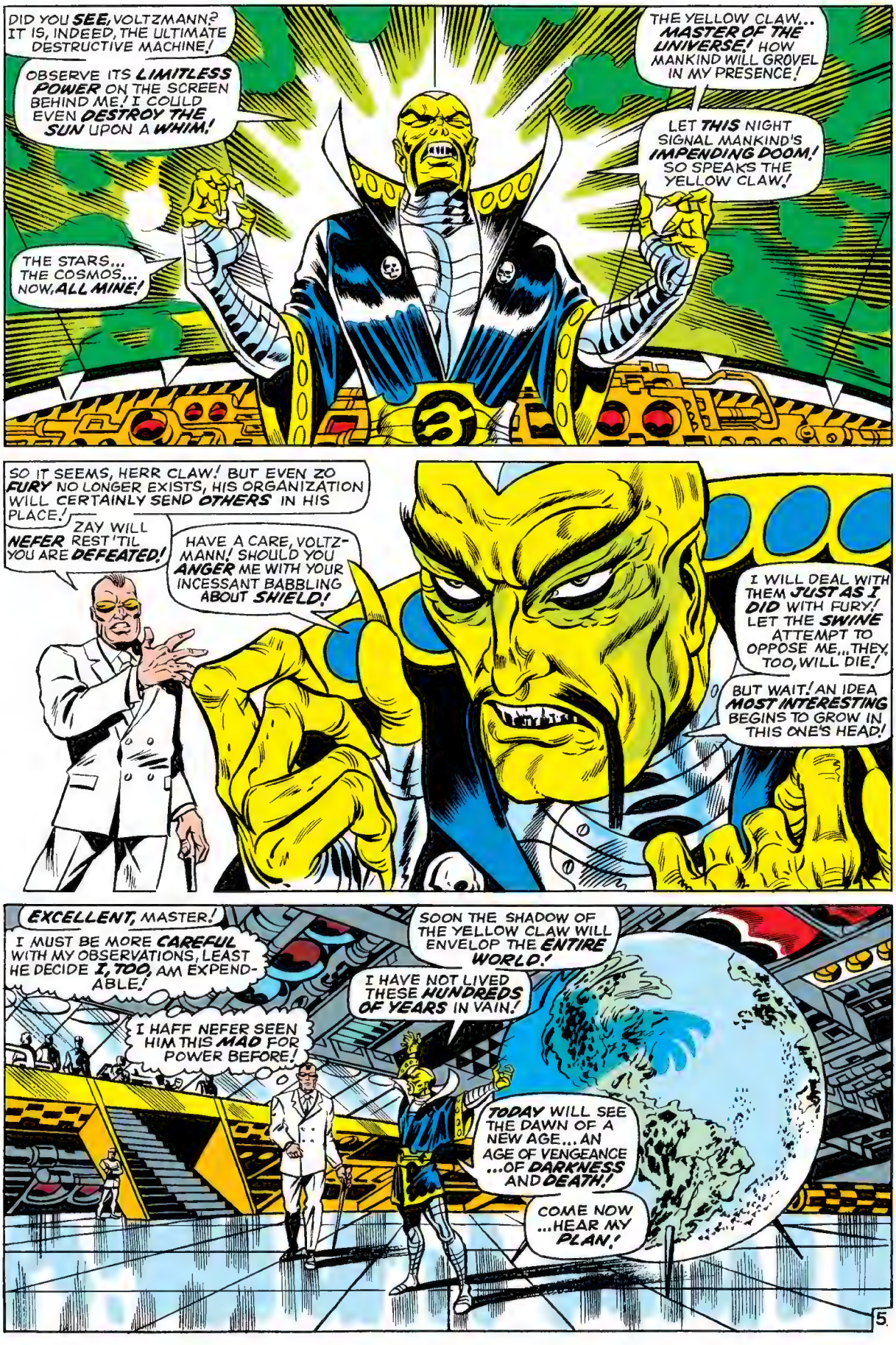
GET THE HYDRAULIC CHAIR READY! HE MUST GET TO SHIELD MED CENTER IMMEDIATELY!

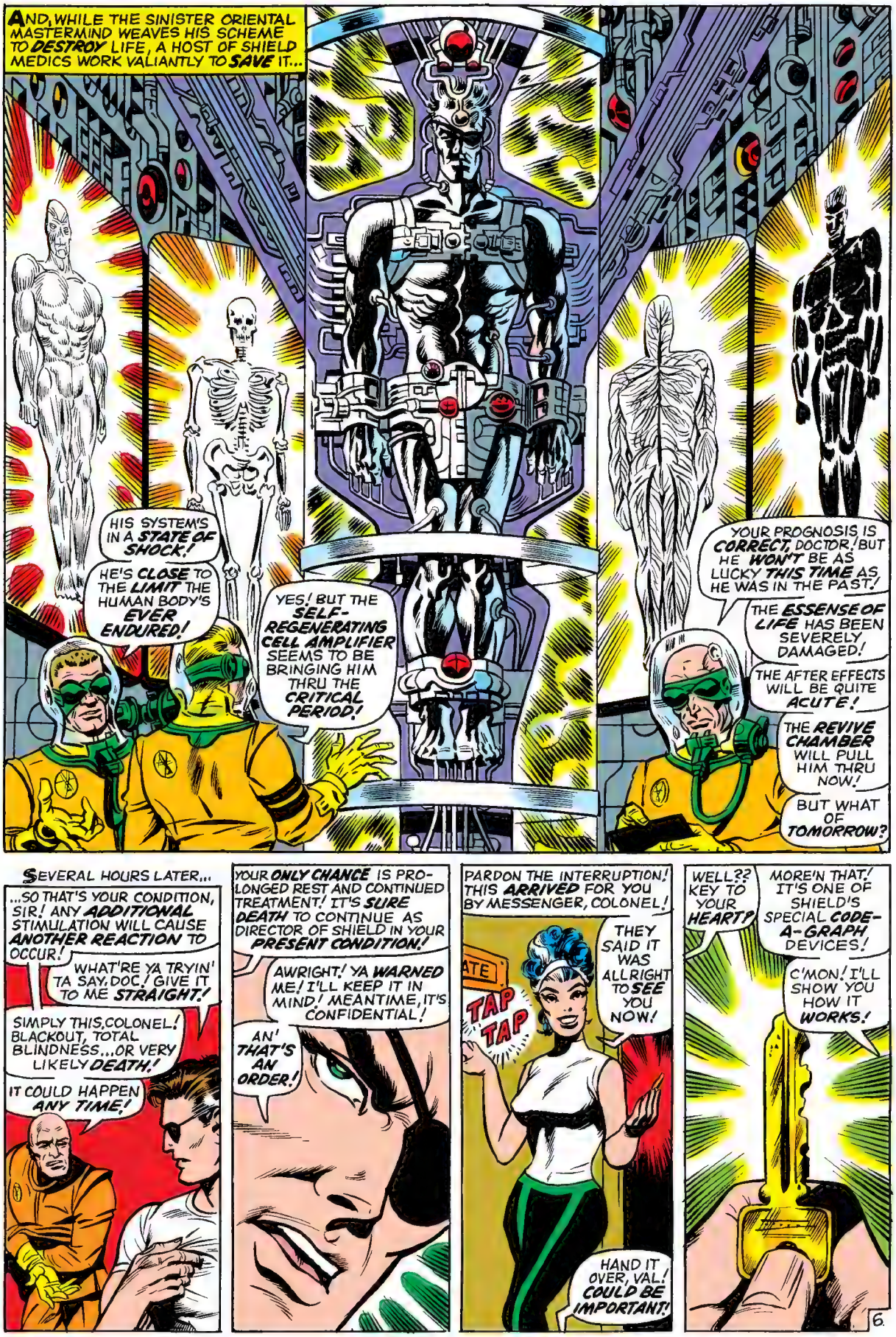
RIGHT! HE'S ON HIS WAY! DON'T LOOK GOOD FOR THE CHIEF! HE BARELY HAS A PULSE BEAT!

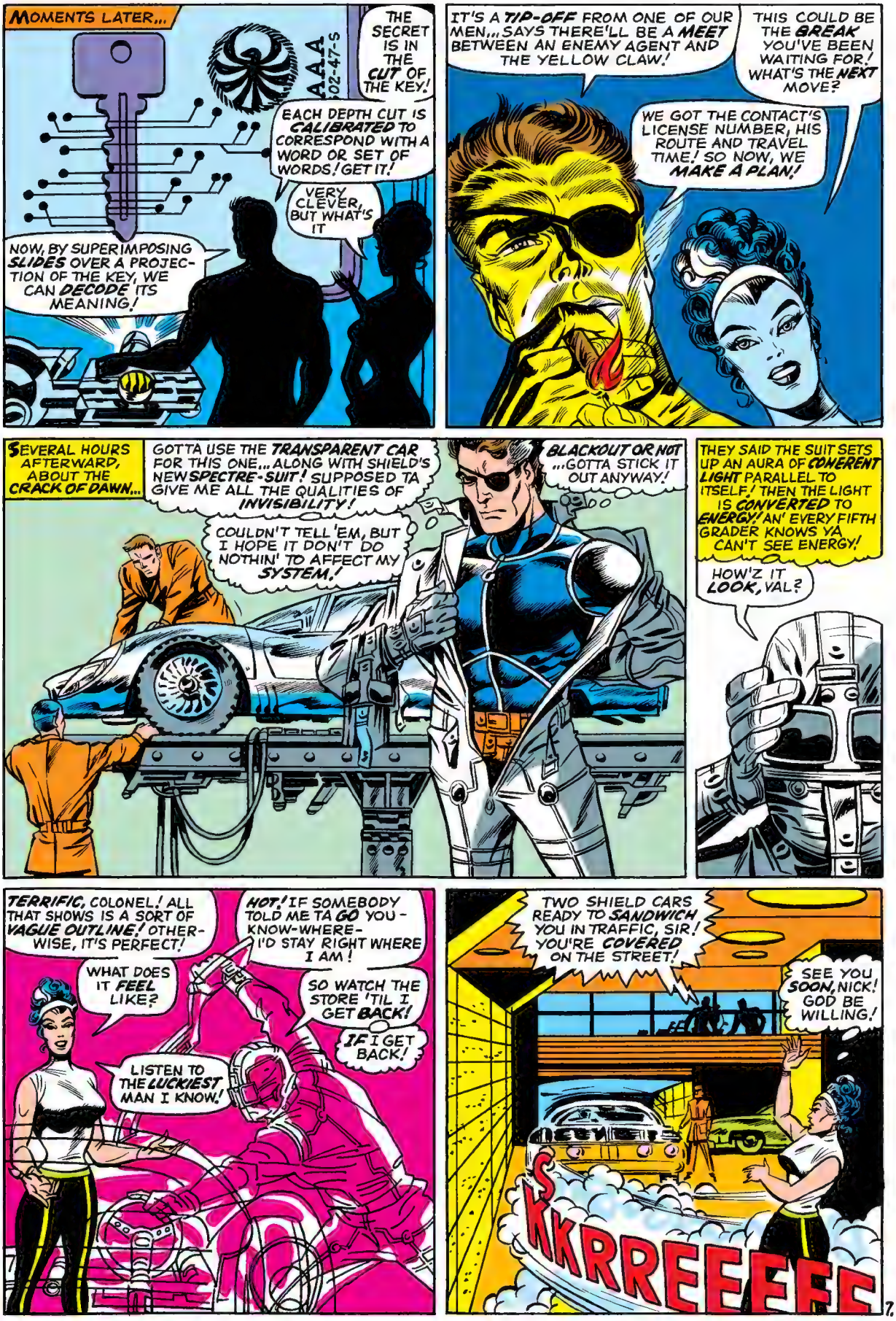
CHARLIE CLIPPER TO BIG DADDY... COLONEL FURY COMING DOWN... ALL MEDICS... ATTENTION! TOP PRIORITY!

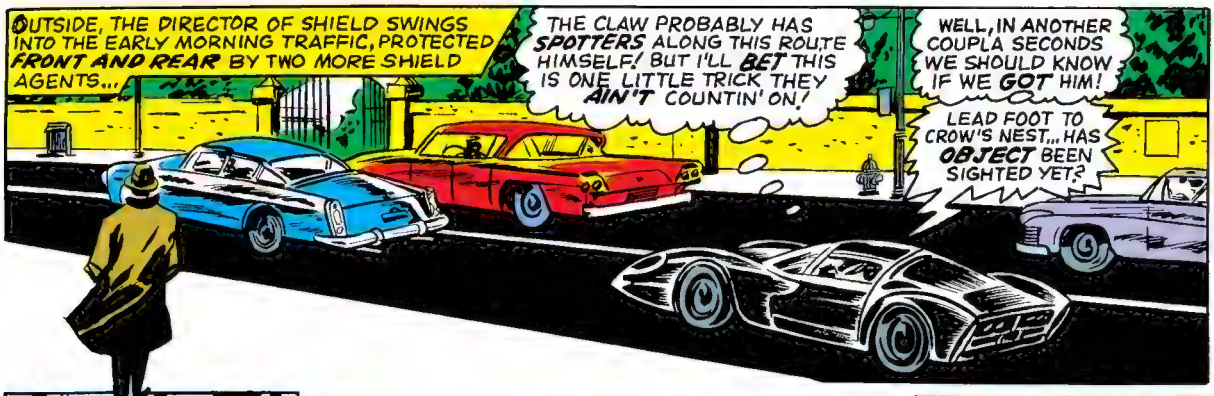
OKAY, CLIPPER CHARLIE... READY AND WAITING!


AND EVEN AS THE SHIELD RAMROD FIGHTS FOR HIS VERY LIFE THE INSCRUTIBLE YELLOW CLAW BEGINS TO SPIN ANOTHER WEB OF INCREDIBLE VILLAINY... FROM HIS SECRET SANCTUM HE PREPARES TO TEST THE DESTRUCTIVE POWERS OF HIS NEW ACQUISITION... THE ULTIMATE ANNIHILATOR!
THE IRIS DOME IS OPEN, HERR CLAW! PROCEED AT ANY TIME!
I AM READY NOW, VOLTZMANN! IN ANOTHER INSTANT, WE CAN JUDGE THE TRUE RAVAGING POWER OF THE WEAPON!
THOUGH A.I.M. PERFECTED IT, IT WAS THROUGH MY INGENIOUS MANIPULATION OF THE FOOLS AT SHIELD THAT I SECURED IT FOR MY OWN PLANS!*
LAST ISH, REMEMBER? -- STICKLER STAN.
NOW, IF THE ULTIMATE ANNIHILATOR DOES INDEED HAVE THE UNLIMITED DEVASTATING FORCE ITS NAME IMPLIES, IT SHOULD HAVE LITTLE DIFFICULTY IN DESTROYING THE TARGET I HAVE CHOSEN!
A SATELLITE... IN ORBIT MILES ABOVE EARTH!
NOW... TO PRESS THIS SWITCH...
OBSERVE, VOLTZMANN, AS THE DEADLY ANNIHILATION BEAM CONTACTS THE OBJECT!
FIRST, IT SHIMMERS WITH ENERGY RELEASED... THEN, THE PROTONS IN THE ATOM STRUCTURE BEGIN TO DISSIPATE...
NOW, THE FINAL SCINTILLA OF FORCE...
AND THEN, NOTHING!


DID YOU SEE, VOLTZMANN? IT IS, INDEED, THE ULTIMATE DESTRUCTIVE MACHINE!
OBSERVE ITS LIMITLESS POWER ON THE SCREEN BEHIND ME! I COULD EVEN DESTROY THE SUN UPON A WHIM!
THE YELLOW CLAW... MASTER OF THE UNIVERSE! HOW MANKIND WILL GROVEL IN MY PRESENCE!
LET THIS NIGHT SIGNAL MANKIND'S IMPENDING DOOM! SO SPEAKS THE YELLOW CLAW!
THE STARS... THE COSMOS... NOW, ALL MINE!
SO IT SEEMS, HERR CLAW! BUT EVEN ZO FURY NO LONGER EXISTS, HIS ORGANIZATION WILL CERTAINLY SEND OTHERS IN HIS PLACE!
ZAY WILL NEFER REST 'TIL YOU ARE DEFEATED!
HAVE A CARE, VOLTZMANN! SHOULD YOU ANGER ME WITH YOUR INCESSANT BABBLING ABOUT SHIELD!
I WILL DEAL WITH THEM JUST AS I DID WITH FURY! LET THE SWINE ATTEMPT TO OPPOSE ME... THEY, TOO, WILL DIE!
BUT WAIT! AN IDEA MOST INTERESTING BEGINS TO GROW IN THIS ONE'S HEAD!
EXCELLENT, MASTER!
I MUST BE MORE CAREFUL WITH MY OBSERVATIONS, LEAST HE DECIDE I, TOO, AM EXPENDABLE!
I HAFF NEFER SEEN HIM THIS MAD FOR POWER BEFORE!
SOON THE SHADOW OF THE YELLOW CLAW WILL ENVELOP THE ENTIRE WORLD!
I HAVE NOT LIVED THESE HUNDREDS OF YEARS IN VAIN!
TODAY WILL SEE THE DAWN OF A NEW AGE... AN AGE OF VENGEANCE ...OF DARKNESS AND DEATH!
COME NOW ...HEAR MY PLAN!

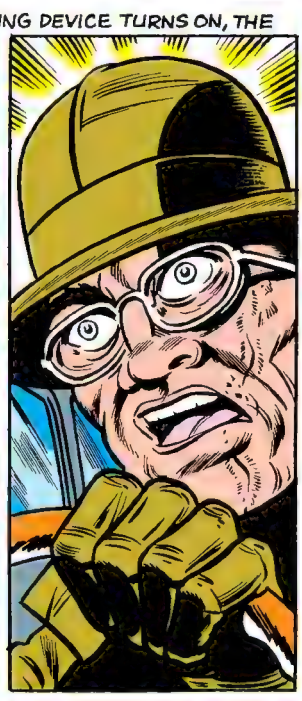

AND, WHILE THE SINISTER ORIENTAL MASTERMIND WEAVES HIS SCHEME TO DESTROY LIFE, A HOST OF SHIELD MEDICS WORK VALIANTLY TO SAVE IT...
HIS SYSTEM'S IN A STATE OF SHOCK!
HE'S CLOSE TO THE LIMIT THE HUMAN BODY'S EVER ENDURED!
YES! BUT THE SELF-REGENERATING CELL AMPLIFIER SEEMS TO BE BRINGING HIM THRU THE CRITICAL PERIOD!
YOUR PROGNOSIS IS CORRECT, DOCTOR, BUT HE WON'T BE AS LUCKY THIS TIME AS HE WAS IN THE PAST!
THE ESSENSE OF LIFE HAS BEEN SEVERELY DAMAGED!
THE AFTER EFFECTS WILL BE QUITE ACUTE!
THE REVIVE CHAMBER WILL PULL HIM THRU NOW!
BUT WHAT OF TOMORROW?
SEVERAL HOURS LATER...
...SO THAT'S YOUR CONDITION, SIR! ANY ADDITIONAL STIMULATION WILL CAUSE ANOTHER REACTION TO OCCUR!
WHAT'RE YA TRYIN' TA SAY, DOC! GIVE IT TO ME STRAIGHT!
SIMPLY THIS, COLONEL! BLACKOUT, TOTAL BLINDNESS...OR VERY LIKELY DEATH!
IT COULD HAPPEN ANY TIME!
YOUR ONLY CHANCE IS PROLONGED REST AND CONTINUED TREATMENT! IT'S SURE DEATH TO CONTINUE AS DIRECTOR OF SHIELD IN YOUR PRESENT CONDITION!
AWRIGHT! YA WARNED ME! I'LL KEEP IT IN MIND! MEANTIME, IT'S CONFIDENTIAL!
AN' THAT'S AN ORDER!
PARDON THE INTERRUPTION! THIS ARRIVED FOR YOU BY MESSENGER, COLONEL!
TAP TAP
THEY SAID IT WAS ALLRIGHT TO SEE YOU NOW!
HAND IT OVER, VAL! COULD BE IMPORTANT!
WELL?? KEY TO YOUR HEART?
MORE'N THAT! IT'S ONE OF SHIELD'S SPECIAL CODE-A-GRAPH DEVICES!
C'MON! I'LL SHOW YOU HOW IT WORKS!
6.

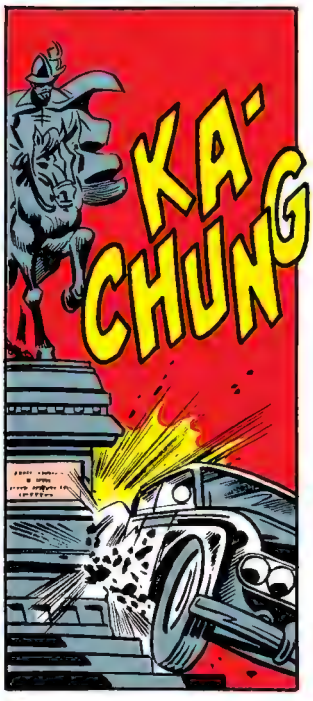

MOMENTS LATER...
AAA 02-47-S
THE SECRET IS IN THE CUT OF THE KEY!
EACH DEPTH CUT IS CALIBRATED TO CORRESPOND WITH A WORD OR SET OF WORDS! GET IT!
VERY CLEVER, BUT WHAT'S IT
NOW, BY SUPERIMPOSING SLIDES OVER A PROJECTION OF THE KEY, WE CAN DECODE ITS MEANING!
IT'S A TIP-OFF FROM ONE OF OUR MEN... SAYS THERE'LL BE A MEET BETWEEN AN ENEMY AGENT AND THE YELLOW CLAW!
THIS COULD BE THE BREAK YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR! WHAT'S THE NEXT MOVE?
WE GOT THE CONTACT'S LICENSE NUMBER, HIS ROUTE AND TRAVEL TIME! SO NOW, WE MAKE A PLAN!
SEVERAL HOURS AFTERWARD, ABOUT THE CRACK OF DAWN...
GOTTA USE THE TRANSPARENT CAR FOR THIS ONE... ALONG WITH SHIELD'S NEW SPECTRE-SUIT! SUPPOSED TA GIVE ME ALL THE QUALITIES OF INVISIBILITY!
COULDN'T TELL 'EM, BUT I HOPE IT DON'T DO NOTHIN' TO AFFECT MY SYSTEM!
BLACKOUT OR NOT ...GOTTA STICK IT OUT ANYWAY!
THEY SAID THE SUIT SETS UP AN AURA OF COHERENT LIGHT PARALLEL TO ITSELF! THEN THE LIGHT IS CONVERTED TO ENERGY! AN' EVERY FIFTH GRADER KNOWS YA CAN'T SEE ENERGY!
HOW'Z IT LOOK, VAL?
TERRIFIC, COLONEL! ALL THAT SHOWS IS A SORT OF VAGUE OUTLINE! OTHERWISE, IT'S PERFECT!
WHAT DOES IT FEEL LIKE?
LISTEN TO THE LUCKIEST MAN I KNOW!
HOT! IF SOMEBODY TOLD ME TA GO YOU-KNOW-WHERE- I'D STAY RIGHT WHERE I AM!
SO WATCH THE STORE 'TIL I GET BACK!
IF I GET BACK!
TWO SHIELD CARS READY TO SANDWICH YOU IN TRAFFIC, SIR! YOU'RE COVERED ON THE STREET!
SEE YOU SOON, NICK! GOD BE WILLING!
SKKRREEEEE

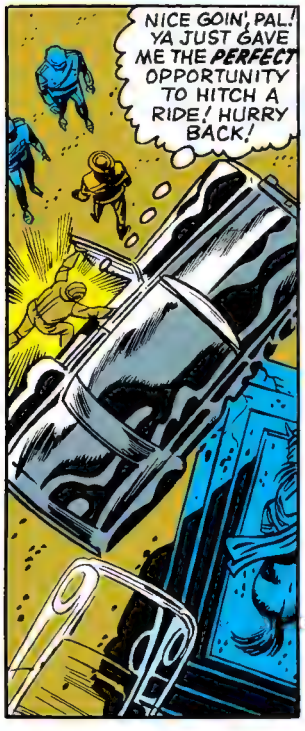

OUTSIDE, THE DIRECTOR OF SHIELD SWINGS INTO THE EARLY MORNING TRAFFIC, PROTECTED FRONT AND REAR BY TWO MORE SHIELD AGENTS...
THE CLAW PROBABLY HAS SPOTTERS ALONG THIS ROUTE HIMSELF! BUT I'LL BET THIS IS ONE LITTLE TRICK THEY AIN'T COUNTIN' ON!
WELL, IN ANOTHER COUPLA SECONDS WE SHOULD KNOW IF WE GOT HIM!
LEAD FOOT TO CROW'S NEST... HAS OBJECT BEEN SIGHTED YET?

JUST AHEAD OF YOU, SIR! JOCKEY INTO POSITION AT NEXT CURVE... ALL CLEAR TO USE IMAGE DISTORTER*!
YOU CALLED IT... MAINTAIN LOOKOUT!
*STRANGE TALES #153... SCHOOLMASTER STAN!

AND, AS THE LIGHT REFRACTING DEVICE TURNS ON, THE AGENT SEES...




KA-CHUNG

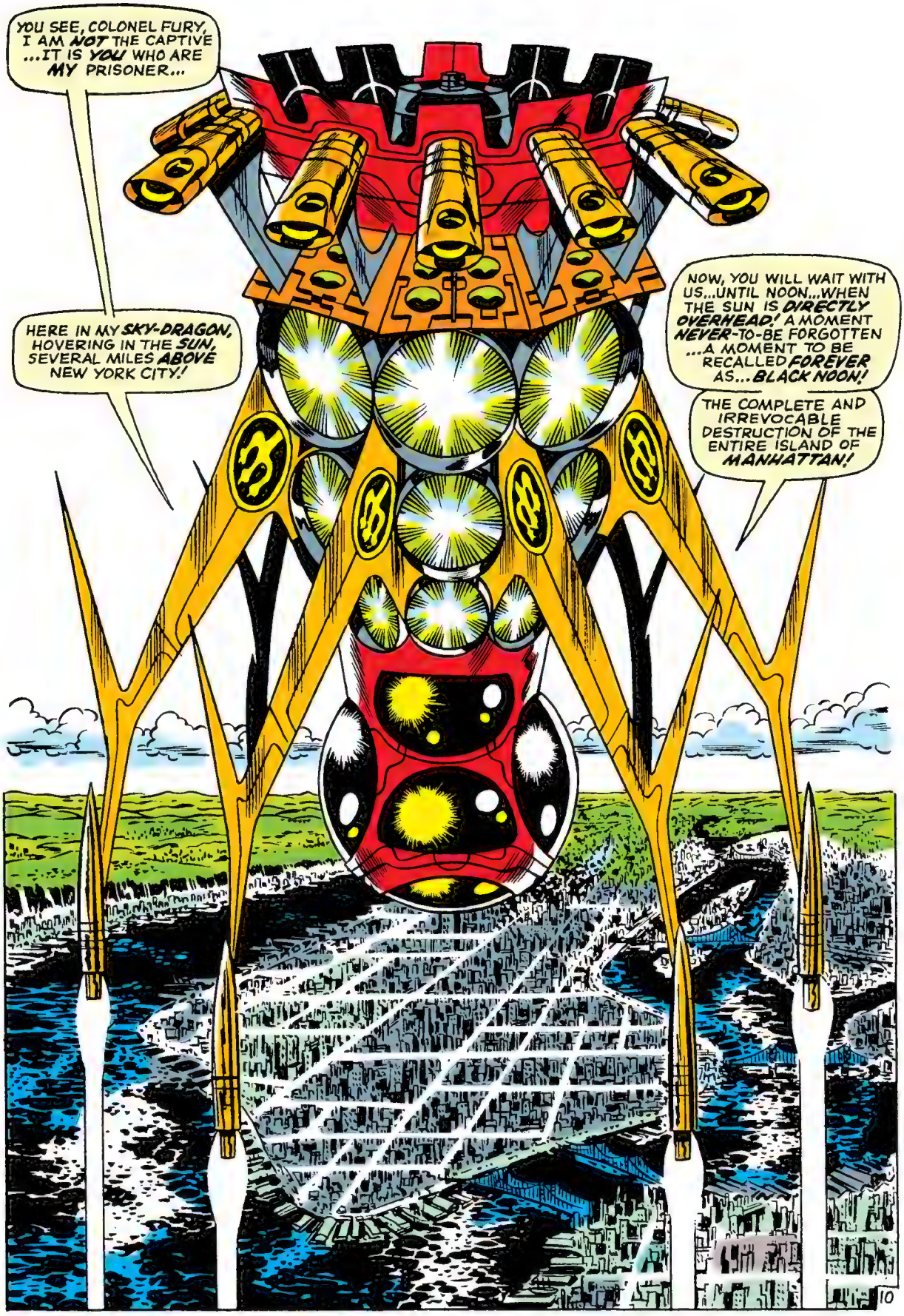

NICE GOIN', PAL! YA JUST GAVE ME THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY TO HITCH A RIDE! HURRY BACK!

MINUTES LATER, THE ACCIDENT INFO TAKEN, THE ENEMY DRIVER HEADS FOR HIS DESTINATION...
HOPE HE DIDN'T RECOGNIZE THE CORNER COP AS A SHIELD MAN!
EVEN SO, AFTER THAT BIT HE'LL BE SUSPICIOUS... GOTTA PLAY IT COOL NOW!

SUDDENLY, EVERY CAR DOOR LOCKS SIMULTANEOUSLY, EVERY WINDOW ROLLS UP, SEALING THE OCCUPANTS WITHIN...
THHAPPT!
KLIK!

THEN, THE STEERING TOO IS LOST TO THE DRIVER, YET SOMEHOW CONTROLLED BY A FORCE UNSEEN...

WE'RE OUT OF THE CITY NOW... SOMEWHERE ON LONG ISLAND!
AND THE CAR'S STILL TRAVELING BY ITSELF!
UH-OH! THE SPECTER-SUIT... LOSING ITS POWERS... I'M GETTIN' VISIBLE AGAIN!
HEY... WE'RE STOPPING, TOO! CRIPES, WHAT A TIME TA RUN OUTTA JUICE! SO WHAT AM I GRIPIN' ABOUT... IT GOT ME HERE, DIDN'T IT?
BETTER GET RID OF THIS RIG! CAN'T DO NOTHIN' NOW BUT SLOW ME UP!
THIS IS IT! HE'S GETTIN' OUT!
YEAH, IT'S HIM ALL RIGHT! LOOKS LIKE THIS IS MY LUCKY DAY!
HOLD IT... RIGHT THERE, CLAW!
ANY MOVE'LL BE YOUR LAST!
YOU!!! ALIVE!
NO KIDDIN'! WHAT MAKES YA THINK I AIN'T THE GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST!
BUT HOW...? ONLY HOURS AGO I KILLED YOU WITH...
FORGET IT! AINT YOU HEARD ... NICK FURY'S GOT MORE LIVES THAN A CAT!
OK! CUT THE CHATTER, CREEPS! YUR ALL MY PRISONERS NOW!
SORRY TO DISAGREE, BUT SIMPLE OBSERVATION OF SCENE FROM NEAREST WINDOW SHOULD PROVE MOST ENLIGHTENING TO SHIELD AGENT!
DON'T BE CUTE! IT AINT BECOMIN' ON YOU!
'SIDES, I, WAS GONNA CHECK THE LOCATION ANYWAY! DON'T EVEN BLINK AN EYE, ANY OF YA, UNLESS YOU DON'T PLAN ON LIVIN' MUCH LONGER!


YOU SEE, COLONEL FURY, I AM NOT THE CAPTIVE ...IT IS YOU WHO ARE MY PRISONER...
HERE IN MY SKY-DRAGON, HOVERING IN THE SUN, SEVERAL MILES ABOVE NEW YORK CITY!
NOW, YOU WILL WAIT WITH US...UNTIL NOON...WHEN THE SUN IS DIRECTLY OVERHEAD! A MOMENT NEVER-TO-BE FORGOTTEN ...A MOMENT TO BE RECALLED FOREVER AS... BLACK NOON!
THE COMPLETE AND IRREVOCABLE DESTRUCTION OF THE ENTIRE ISLAND OF MANHATTAN!

EVEN SO, THE INSTANT YOU REVEALED YOURSELF, MY GUARDS WERE ALERTED!
SO, LET THE PLAY-ACTING END NOW! SENTRIES... ADVANCE!
CAPTURE THIS FOOL! THE YELLOW CLAW COMMANDS!
USE YOUR FRIGI-WEPS! COOL OFF THE SON OF A DOG!
SHHAZZAKK!
I'M USED TO THE COLD SHOULDER, PUNKS! NOW WATCH, WHILE FURY TURNS ON HIS OWN HEAT WAVE!
THEY OUTTA KNOW BY NOW MY ZIP-SUIT'S INSULATED AGAINST THIS KINDA ATTACK!
WRAM!
HEY! MY ROCKET SHELLS... BOUNCIN' OFF HIS ARMOR LIKE NOTHIN' BUT A BUNCH'A PEBBLES!
PTANG!
VOLTZMANN! QUICK! YOUR CANE!
MY THOUGHTS, EXACTLY, HERR CLAW! ZESE HIGH VELOCITY DARTS WILL FINISH HIM OFF!
THAP!
KKWWEEE!
FTOK!
THINK AGAIN, UGLY!
THIS'LL ONLY HOLD 'EM OFF A COUPLA SECONDS MORE!
GOTTA USE SOME OF THE HEAVY ARTILLERY FROM MY BELTS!

NO...NOT NOW...CAN'T BE! MY HEAD...ROCKIN'... CAN'T STAND UP...GOTTA MAKE MYSELF...
=UNNNGHH!= VISION FADIN'... BLACKIN' OUT!
C'MON... HANG ON ...HANG ON...
GOTTA KEEP PULLIN' THE TRIGGER MEBBE...MEBBE...
THEY'RE CLOSIN' IN...FOR THE KILL... IT'S ALL OVER...GUN'S GONE NOW...
SWARMIN' ALL OVER ME... NOTHING I CAN DO!
TOO WEAK ...TO MOVE!
YOU WERE A FOOL TO DEFY ME AGAIN, FURY! THIS TIME THERE WILL BE NO ESCAPE FROM THE WRATH OF THE YELLOW CLAW!
SENTRIES...OPEN THE HULL APERTURE!
POSITION HIM UNDER THE WEAPON!
THEN, SECONDS LATER...
IT IS DONE, HERR CLAW! FURY'S DEATH ISS IMINENT!
AND VITH HIM, SHIELD DIES ALSO!
ZA ULTIMATE ANNIHILATOR WAITS IN READINESS FOR YOU TO TRIGGER ZA DESTRUCTION OF ZA METROPOLIS BELOW US!
ONLY SECONDS REMAIN UNTIL NOON!
EXCELLENT! AND IN THE WAKE OF BLACK NOON, THE WORLD WILL TREMBLE!
EVIL'S ARMA-GEDDON IS NOW IRREVERSABLE!
THE BEARERS OF YOUR DEATH WILL BE CATACLYSM AND CHAOS! PITY YOU CANNOT WITNESS MY CONNSUMATE VICTORY!
STILL, YOU WILL DIE A MARTYR, UNDER THE VERY WEAPON YOU STOLE FOR ME!
A FITTING END! DON'T YOU AGREE, COLONEL FURY?
BLACK NOON HAS ARRIVED!
NEXT MONTH:
"IF SHIELD DIES!"

STRANGE TALES
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
NICK FURY, AGENT OF
S.H.I.E.L.D.™
and
DOCTOR STRANGE™
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
12¢ IND.
165 FEB
MCG
BEHOLD THE SAVAGE SKY!
STERANKO

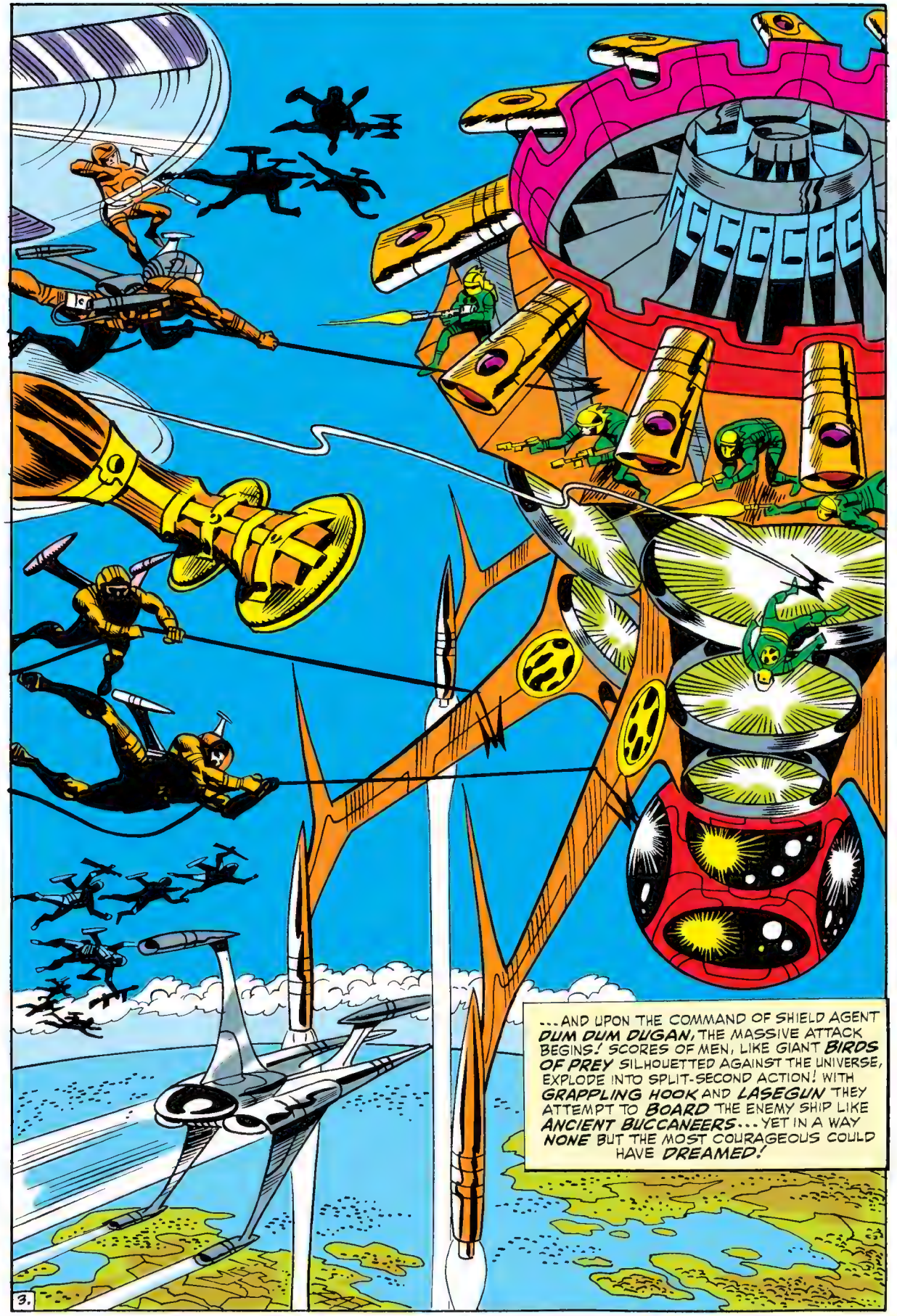
# NICK FURY, AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D.!™

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS INTERNATIONAL ESPIONAGE LAW-ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

# "BEHOLD THE SAVAGE SKY!"

BLACK NOON HAS ARRIVED...THE YELLOW CLAW IS ABOUT TO DESTROY THE ISLAND OF MANHATTAN! NICK FURY LIES HELPLESS UNDER A FANTASTIC WEAPON CALLED THE ULTIMATE ANNIHILATOR... WHAT A HECKUVA PLACE TO LEAVE ANY TRUE BELIEVER FOR A MONTH! SO NOW WE HAVE A CHANCE TO MAKE IT UP TO YA! RIGHT? RIGHT!
AND, WHILE IT'S STILL FRESH IN OUR MIND..
SMILIN' STAN LEE, EDITOR
JAUNTY JIM STERANKO, WRITER-ARTIST
FEARLESS FRANK GIACOIA, INKER
SWINGIN' SAM ROSEN, LETTERER
SO IF YOU DON'T LIKE THIS ISH, YOU KNOW TO WHOM TO ADDRESS THE LETTERS!
HELI-CARRIER'S RADAR-NULLIFYING FORCE FIELD NOW SWITCHED OFF!
ON THE DOUBLE, YA PARTY-CRASHERS!
WE BEEN STALLIN' AROUND TOO LONG TA SEE WHAT THE YELLOW CLAW'S GOT UP HIS SLEEVE!
FURY NEEDS US--- NOW! ALL BOARDING DIVISIONS---
ATTACK!

2.


...AND UPON THE COMMAND OF SHIELD AGENT DUM DUM DUGAN, THE MASSIVE ATTACK BEGINS! SCORES OF MEN, LIKE GIANT BIRDS OF PREY SILHOUETTED AGAINST THE UNIVERSE, EXPLODE INTO SPLIT-SECOND ACTION! WITH GRAPPLING HOOK AND LASEGUN THEY ATTEMPT TO BOARD THE ENEMY SHIP LIKE ANCIENT BUCCANEERS... YET IN A WAY NONE BUT THE MOST COURAGEOUS COULD HAVE DREAMED!
3.

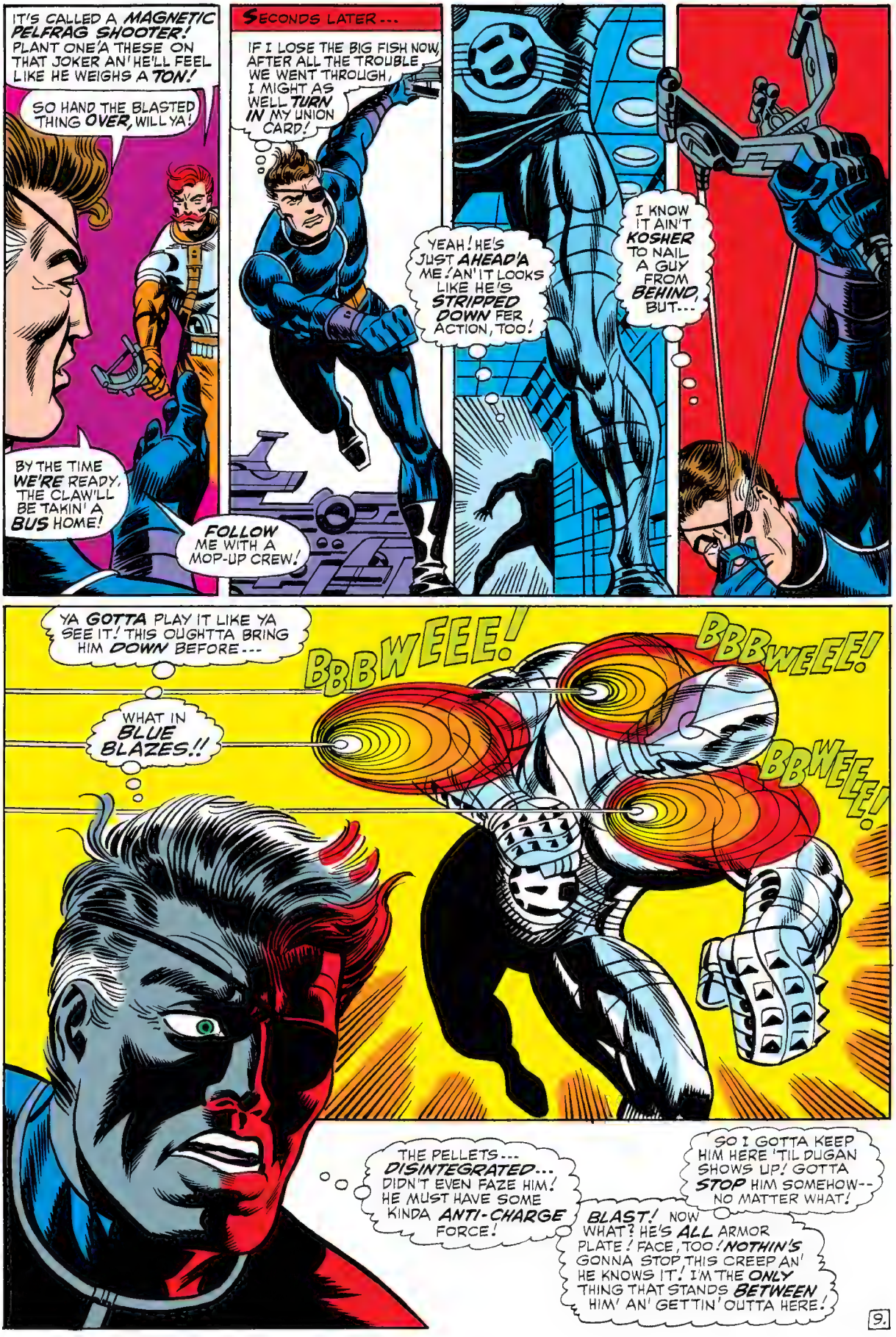
AT THAT VERY MOMENT, INSIDE---
AIEEE! THE SKY DRAGON---UNDER ATTACK! CURSE THE INFIDELS!
VOLTZMANN--- GRAB THE WEAPON FROM ITS HOUSING!
COVER MY ESCAPE! I COMMAND YOU!
I MUST SUMMON MY ELITE GUARD... GET THEM IN DEFENSIVE POSITIONS!
THEN KILL FURY!
SECONDS LATER, THE YELLOW CLAW'S ASSASSINS PREPARE TO MEET SHIELD'S AIRBORNE ASSAULT FORCE---
WHILE, ON THE OUTER HULL, THE GOOD GUYS HAVE LANDED...
PREPARE FOR INVASION PHASE THREE!
OBSERVATION BUBBLE BLISTERING UNDER LASEGUN FIRE!
SHIELD'S SUICIDE SQUAD IS INSIDE ALREADY!
AN' IF ANYBODY CAN PRY THOSE CREEPS LOOSE, THEY CAN!
YEAH! NOW IF ONLY THEY CAN REACH FURY IN TIME!
4

COUNT YOUR LAST SECONDS, FURY!
PSST! NICK!
VILE I REMOVE ZA...
HUH!!
ZO, YOU CHOOSE TO PLAY ZA FOOL...
'TIL ZA VERY END!
YOU SAID IT, PUNK! BUT YA DIDN'T MENTION THE END'A WHAT! NOW FURY'S GONNA SHOW YA!
YA JUST PULLED YER LAST TRIGGER--- AN' THAT MISS IS GONNA COST YA PLENTY!
AN' YUR BOSS IS NEXT! SOON'S I CAN GET MY MITTS ON 'IM!
5.

KWUMP!
SOMETHIN' MUST BE WRONG WITH NICK! HE'D NEVER LET A THING LIKE THAT HAPPEN!
MEBBE HE'S GONE THROUGH TOO MUCH---LIKE COMBAT FATIGUE!
UH-OH! VOLTZMANN'S BACK ON HIS FEET AGAIN!
GOTTA WARN NICK BEFORE HE SQUEEZES THAT TRIGGER!
NICK--WATCH IT! HE'S LININ' YA UP IN HIS SIGHTS!
CUT THE CHATTER, YA BIG DOPE!
FURY AIN'T GONNA LET A LITTLE POPGUN LIKE THAT TURN HIM OFF!
KRAKK!
NOW, LET'S GET A LOOK AT YA WITHOUT THE SHADES!
WELL, I'LL SAY THIS, VOLTZY--YOU SURE AINT NO BEAUTY PRIZE!
AND ELSEWHERE, AT THAT SELF-SAME MOMENT, A TRIO OF SHIELD SENTRIES PRESS THEIR SEARCH FOR THE INSCRUTABLE ORIENTAL MASTERMIND---
6.

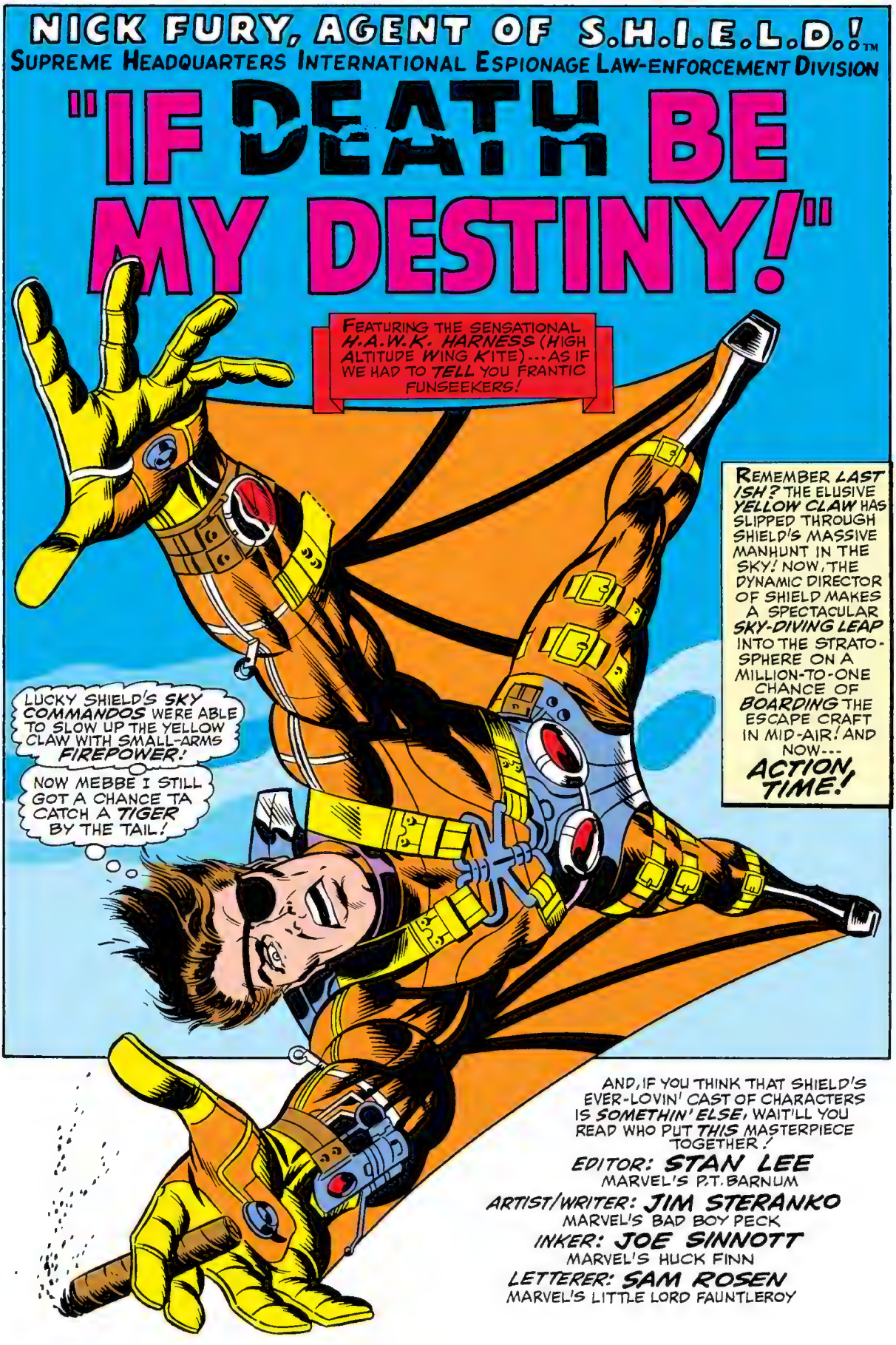
HOLD IT! THERE HE IS! WE'VE FOUND HIM!
DON'T TAKE ANOTHER STEP, CLAW! IN THE NAME OF SHIELD, YOU ARE NOW UNDER OUR CONFINEMENT!
HE'S NOT STOPPING! OUR ORDERS ARE TO BRING HIM IN ANY WAY WE CAN!
USE YOUR WEAPONS, BEFORE... BEFORE--
NO, WAIT! HE'S BEGINNING TO..TO TURN AROUND...!
THAT GLOW... PULSATING... REACHING OUT TOWARD US!
--MY HYPER-PSIONIC BRAIN-WAVE EMANATIONS!
I HAD NOT WISHED TO DELIVER THIS DEFENSIVE ELEMENT YET! BUT, THE CHOICE IS NOW NOT MINE!
I MUST USE MY FINAL WEAPON--
SEE THE FOOLS WITHER 'NEATH THE MERCILESS MOLECULAR CHAOS...
..OF MY ULTRA-LETHAL PSYCHIC STORM!

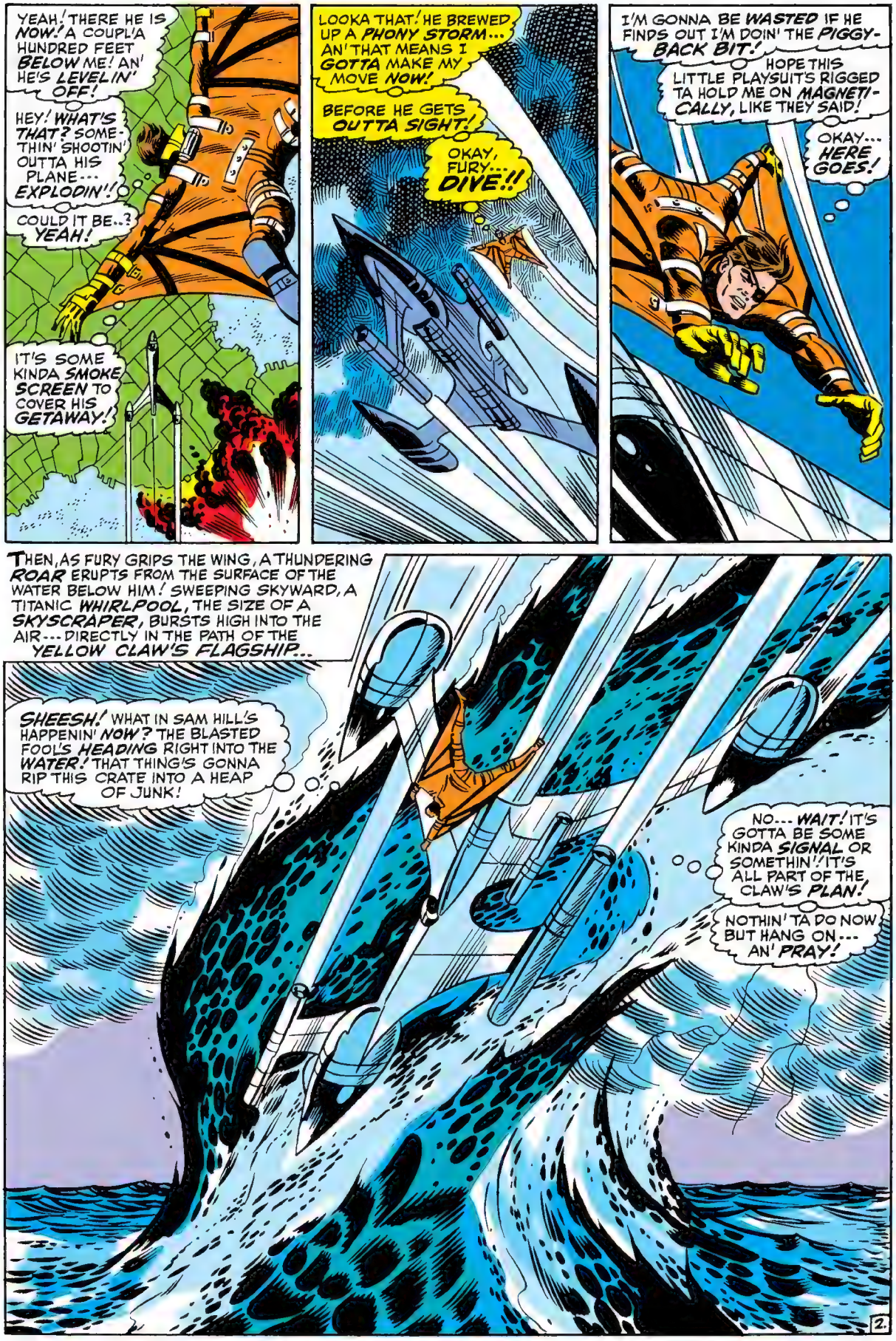
IT WAS INDEED UNFORTUNATE THAT I WAS FORCED TO USE MENTAL COMBAT! THE DRAIN ON MY NERVOUS SYSTEM IS OVERWHELMING!
NEVERTHELESS, I AM AGAIN SAFE, FOR THE MOMENT! BUT TO AFFECT AN ESCAPE, I NEED A DIVERSION!
THUS, I MUST LOOSE MY TEAM OF DUPLIKEDS, WHICH CAN ONLY BE RELEASED BY MY OWN HANDPRINT ON THIS AUTONOMIC SCREEN!
MEANWHILE...
GOOD TO HAVE YA BACK WITH US AGAIN, NICK! THINGS MUSTA BEEN PRETTY ROUGH WHEN YA NEED DUM DUM DUGAN TO PULL YOU OUTTA THE FIRE!
CAN'T LET DUM DUM KNOW I BEEN BLACKIN' OUT LATELY!
I KNEW YA'D GET HERE, YA OL' WALRUS! BUT WHAT TOOK YA SO LONG?
ALMOSTS DON'T COUNT, YA KNOW!
AWW, NICK! YA KNOW I WOULDN'T LET YA DOWN!
ATTENTION! ALL SHIELD PERSONNEL! YELLOW CLAW CAPTURED IN ENGINE ROOM!
BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE, SIR! OUR DIVISION HAS HIM AT BAY IN THE NAVIGATION CHAMBER!
SOMETHIN'S SCREWY! HE CAN'T BE IN TWO PLACES AT ONCE!
UNLESS...
STAND ASIDE! I GOTTA HAVE A LITTLE POW-WOW WITH VOLTZMANN!
OKAY, CREEP! START TALKIN' OR I'LL DROP YA DOWN THAT OPENING IN THE FLOOR!
WHAT'S THE CLAW UP TO?
AN' GIVE IT TO ME STRAIGHT! I AIN'T GOT TIME FOR WRONG ANSWERS!
IT...IT'S HIS ESCAPE PLAN...REPLICA ROBOTS OF HIMSELF...MEANS...HE MUST BE HEADING...FOR HIS GETAWAY SHIP...UNDER STABILIZING JETS!
IF YER CONNIN' ME, I'LL MAKE YA WISH YOU NEVER WUZ BORN!
LET'S GET GOIN', NICK! I GOT A NEW GADGET THE SHIELD TECHNOS WHIPPED UP SPECIALLY FER THE YELLOW CLAW!
8

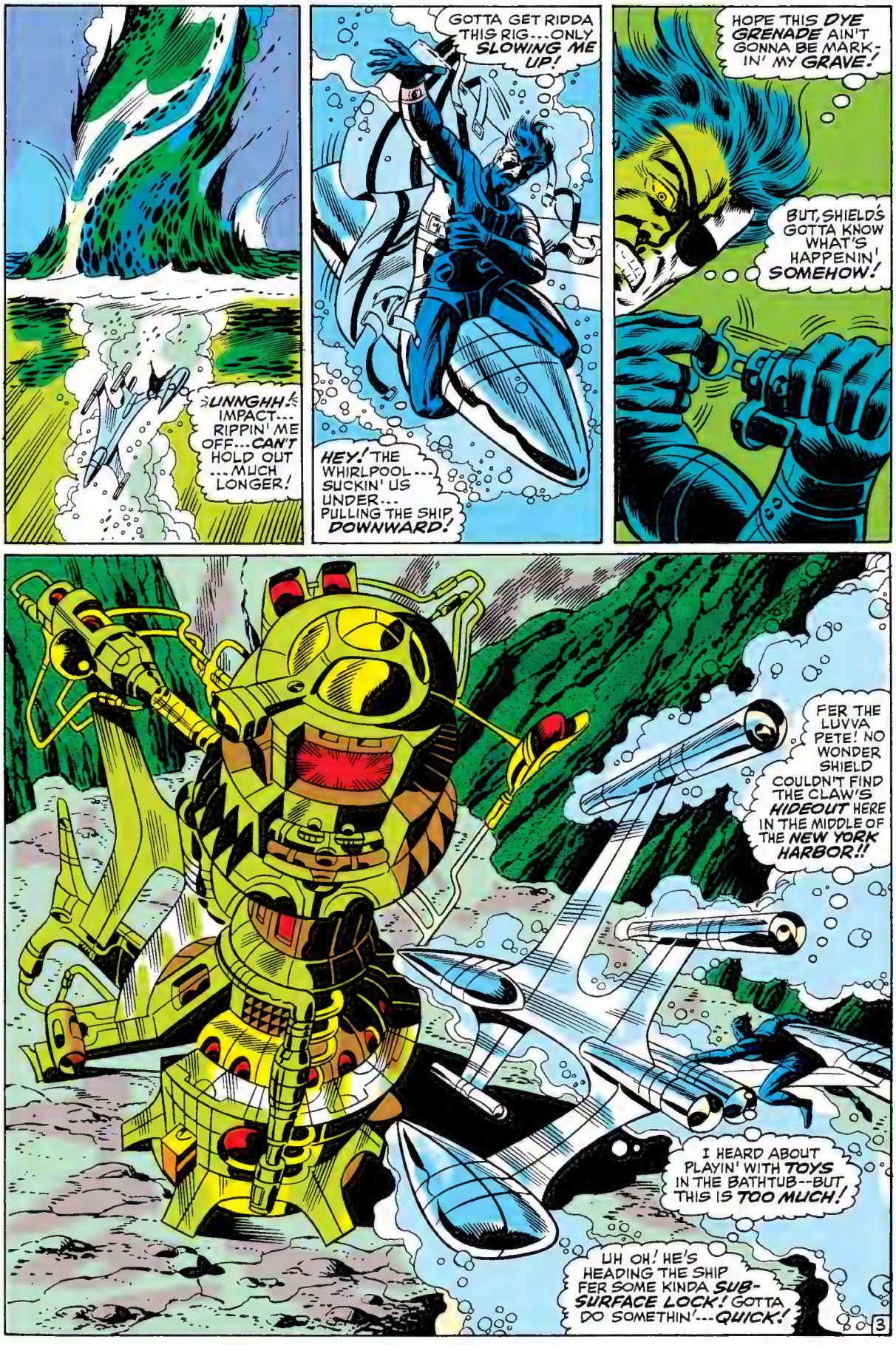

IT'S CALLED A MAGNETIC PELFRAG SHOOTER! PLANT ONE'A THESE ON THAT JOKER AN' HE'LL FEEL LIKE HE WEIGHS A TON!
SO HAND THE BLASTED THING OVER, WILL YA!
BY THE TIME WE'RE READY, THE CLAW'LL BE TAKIN' A BUS HOME!
FOLLOW ME WITH A MOP-UP CREW!
SECONDS LATER...
IF I LOSE THE BIG FISH NOW, AFTER ALL THE TROUBLE WE WENT THROUGH, I MIGHT AS WELL TURN IN MY UNION CARD!
YEAH! HE'S JUST AHEAD'A ME! AN' IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S STRIPPED DOWN FER ACTION, TOO!
I KNOW IT AIN'T KOSHER TO NAIL A GUY FROM BEHIND, BUT...
YA GOTTA PLAY IT LIKE YA SEE IT! THIS OUGHTTA BRING HIM DOWN BEFORE...
WHAT IN BLUE BLAZES!!
BBBWEEE!
BBBWEEE!
BBWEEE!
THE PELLETS... DISINTEGRATED... DIDN'T EVEN FAZE HIM! HE MUST HAVE SOME KINDA ANTI-CHARGE FORCE!
SO I GOTTA KEEP HIM HERE 'TIL DUGAN SHOWS UP! GOTTA STOP HIM SOMEHOW-- NO MATTER WHAT!
BLAST! NOW WHAT? HE'S ALL ARMOR PLATE! FACE, TOO! NOTHIN'S GONNA STOP THIS CREEP AN' HE KNOWS IT! I'M THE ONLY THING THAT STANDS BETWEEN HIM' AN' GETTIN' OUTTA HERE!

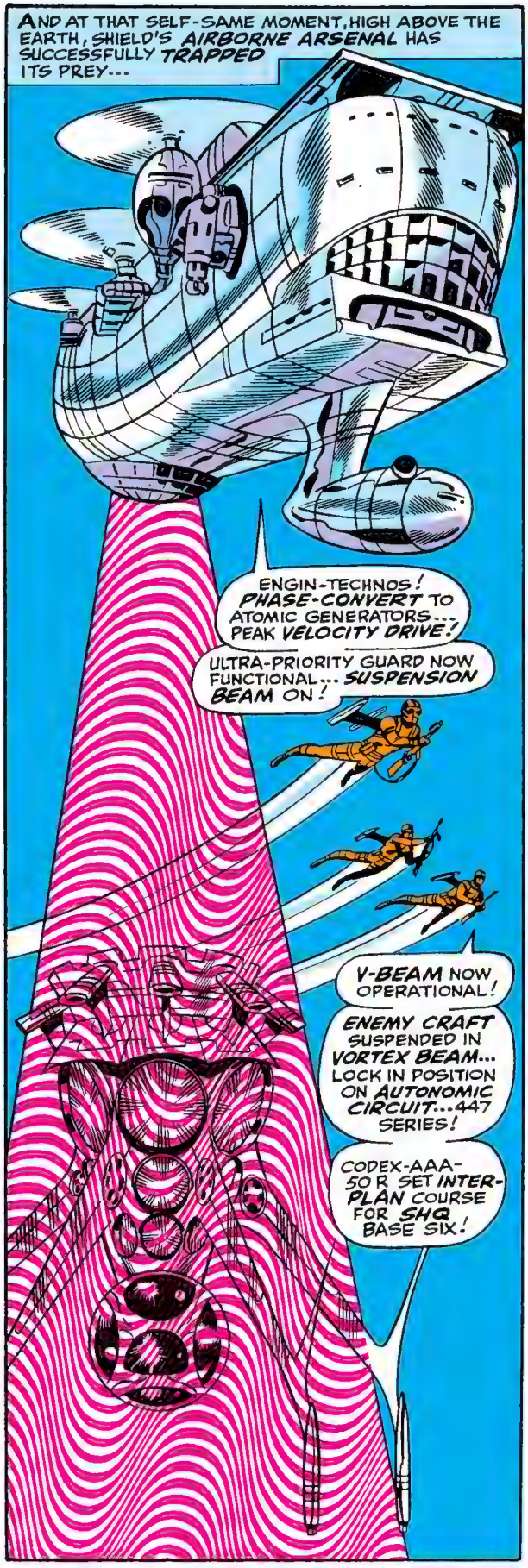
KRUNCH!
BUT BEFORE HE CAN FORMULATE A DEFENSE, THE SINISTER ORIENTAL IS UPON HIM LIKE A WHIRLWIND OF DOOM, SMASHING WITH A COMBINATION OF PUNCHES THAT ROCKS THE SHIELD LEADER OFF HIS FEET! SPIKED FIST AGAINST SINEW, STEEL AGAINST BONE, THE YELLOW CLAW BATTERS THE FALTERING NICK FURY INTO ABJECT HELPLESSNESS!
KRACK!
10

YOU'VE PLAYED RIGHT INTO MY HANDS, FOOL--GIVEN ME THE CHANCE TO SAVE FACE...ONE FINAL CHANCE TO GAIN THE VICTORY!
--TO SHOW THAT YELLOW CLAW IS UNQUESTIONABLY SUPERIOR!
HERE, YOUR UNDENIABLE DEFEAT, I EMERGE TRIUMPHANT, LIKE A PHOENIX RISING FROM THE ASHES!
THOUGH I MUST LEAVE NOW, THE YELLOW CLAW WILL BE BACK!
PITY I CANNOT REMAIN TO FINISH THE JOB! BUT HEED MY WARNING! WHEN I NEXT RETURN, IT WILL BE AS YOUR CONQUEROR!
AND AS THE ROAR OF THE ESCAPE CRAFT ECHOES AN UNCANNY, SIBILANT LAUGHTER IN HIS MIND, NICK FURY WRITHES IN THE ANGUISH OF DEFEAT, KNOWING THE GRIM SPECTER OF THE YELLOW CLAW WILL HAUNT HIM UNTIL THE FINAL DUEL TO THE DEATH---FOR ALL BUT ONE!
RRRRAAAHAAHAHAH!
RETRIBUTION
---NEXT MONTH!


NICK FURY, AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D.!™
SUPREME HEADQUARTERS INTERNATIONAL ESPIONAGE LAW-ENFORCEMENT DIVISION
"IF DEATH BE MY DESTINY!"
FEATURING THE SENSATIONAL H.A.W.K. HARNESS (HIGH ALTITUDE WING KITE)...AS IF WE HAD TO TELL YOU FRANTIC FUNSEEKERS!
REMEMBER LAST ISH? THE ELUSIVE YELLOW CLAW HAS SLIPPED THROUGH SHIELD'S MASSIVE MANHUNT IN THE SKY! NOW, THE DYNAMIC DIRECTOR OF SHIELD MAKES A SPECTACULAR SKY-DIVING LEAP INTO THE STRATOSPHERE ON A MILLION-TO-ONE CHANCE OF BOARDING THE ESCAPE CRAFT IN MID-AIR! AND NOW... ACTION TIME!
LUCKY SHIELD'S SKY COMMANDOS WERE ABLE TO SLOW UP THE YELLOW CLAW WITH SMALL-ARMS FIREPOWER!
NOW MEBBE I STILL GOT A CHANCE TA CATCH A TIGER BY THE TAIL!
AND, IF YOU THINK THAT SHIELD'S EVER-LOVIN' CAST OF CHARACTERS IS SOMETHIN' ELSE, WAIT'LL YOU READ WHO PUT THIS MASTERPIECE TOGETHER!
EDITOR: STAN LEE
MARVEL'S P.T. BARNUM
ARTIST/WRITER: JIM STERANKO
MARVEL'S BAD BOY PECK
INKER: JOE SINNOTT
MARVEL'S HUCK FINN
LETTERER: SAM ROSEN
MARVEL'S LITTLE LORD FAUNTLEROY

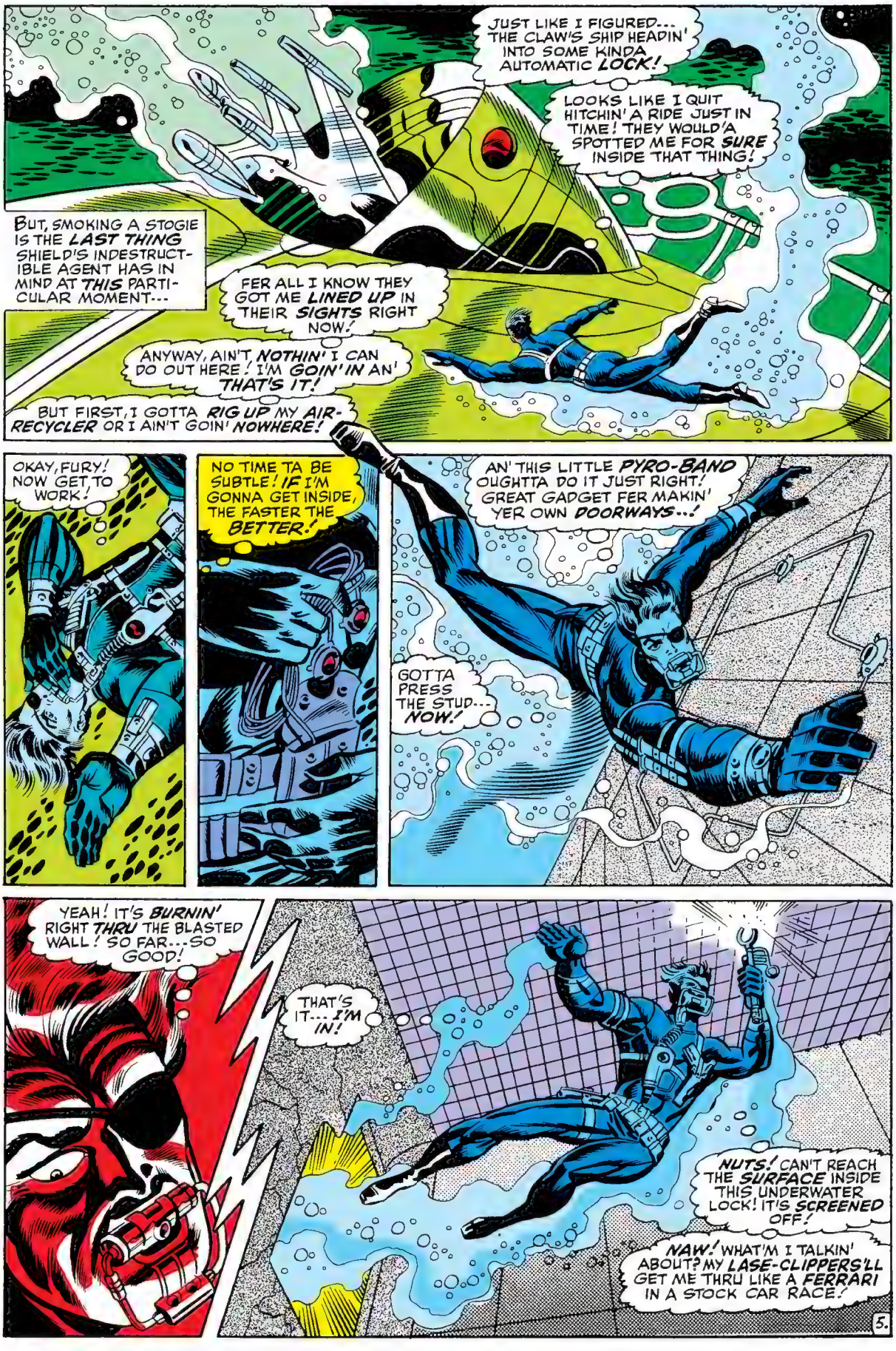

YEAH! THERE HE IS NOW! A COUPL'A HUNDRED FEET BELOW ME! AN' HE'S LEVELIN' OFF!
HEY! WHAT'S THAT? SOMETHIN' SHOOTIN' OUTTA HIS PLANE--- EXPLODIN'!
COULD IT BE..? YEAH!
IT'S SOME KINDA SMOKE SCREEN TO COVER HIS GETAWAY!
LOOKA THAT! HE BREWED UP A PHONY STORM... AN' THAT MEANS I GOTTA MAKE MY MOVE NOW!
BEFORE HE GETS OUTTA SIGHT!
OKAY, FURY... DIVE!!
I'M GONNA BE WASTED IF HE FINDS OUT I'M DOIN' THE PIGGY-BACK BIT!
HOPE THIS LITTLE PLAYSUIT'S RIGGED TA HOLD ME ON MAGNETICALLY, LIKE THEY SAID!
OKAY... HERE GOES!
THEN, AS FURY GRIPS THE WING, A THUNDERING ROAR ERUPTS FROM THE SURFACE OF THE WATER BELOW HIM! SWEEPING SKYWARD, A TITANIC WHIRLPOOL, THE SIZE OF A SKYSCRAPER, BURSTS HIGH INTO THE AIR--- DIRECTLY IN THE PATH OF THE YELLOW CLAW'S FLAGSHIP...
SHEESH! WHAT IN SAM HILL'S HAPPENIN' NOW? THE BLASTED FOOL'S HEADING RIGHT INTO THE WATER! THAT THING'S GONNA RIP THIS CRATE INTO A HEAP OF JUNK!
NO... WAIT! IT'S GOTTA BE SOME KINDA SIGNAL OR SOMETHIN'! IT'S ALL PART OF THE CLAW'S PLAN!
NOTHIN' TA DO NOW BUT HANG ON--- AN' PRAY!

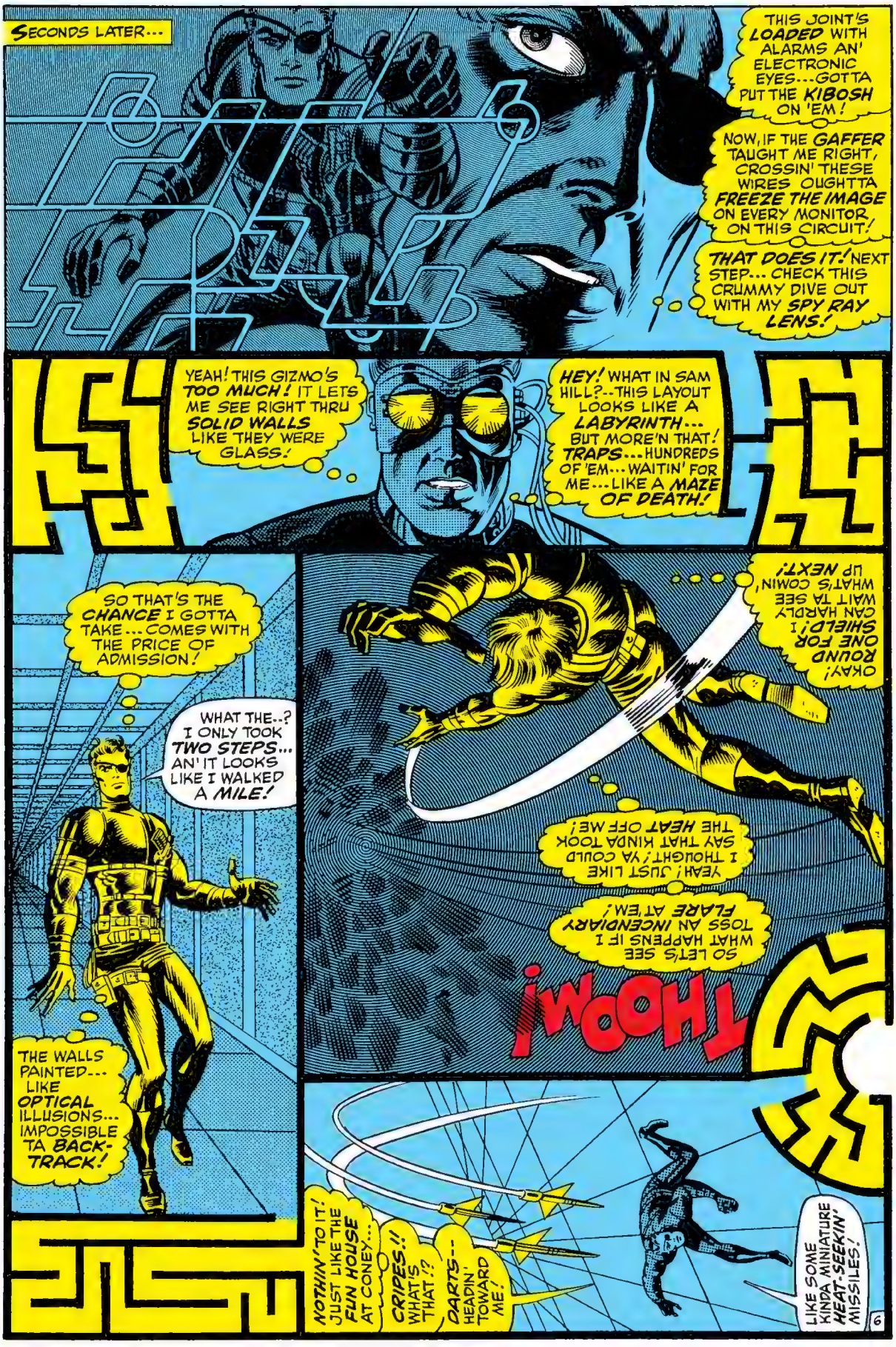

UNNGHH! IMPACT--- RIPPIN' ME OFF---CAN'T HOLD OUT ---MUCH LONGER!
GOTTA GET RIDDA THIS RIG---ONLY SLOWING ME UP!
HEY! THE WHIRLPOOL--- SUCKIN' US UNDER--- PULLING THE SHIP DOWNWARD!
HOPE THIS DYE GRENADE AIN'T GONNA BE MARK-IN' MY GRAVE!
BUT, SHIELD'S GOTTA KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENIN' SOMEHOW!
FER THE LUVVA PETE! NO WONDER SHIELD COULDN'T FIND THE CLAW'S HIDEOUT HERE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NEW YORK HARBOR!!
I HEARD ABOUT PLAYIN' WITH TOYS IN THE BATHTUB--BUT THIS IS TOO MUCH!
UH OH! HE'S HEADING THE SHIP FER SOME KINDA SUB-SURFACE LOCK! GOTTA DO SOMETHIN'---QUICK!


AND AT THAT SELF-SAME MOMENT, HIGH ABOVE THE EARTH, SHIELD'S AIRBORNE ARSENAL HAS SUCCESSFULLY TRAPPED ITS PREY...
ENGIN-TECHNOS! PHASE-CONVERT TO ATOMIC GENERATORS... PEAK VELOCITY DRIVE!
ULTRA-PRIORITY GUARD NOW FUNCTIONAL... SUSPENSION BEAM ON!
V-BEAM NOW OPERATIONAL!
ENEMY CRAFT SUSPENDED IN VORTEX BEAM... LOCK IN POSITION ON AUTONOMIC CIRCUIT...447 SERIES!
CODEX-AAA-50 R SET INTER-PLAN COURSE FOR SHQ BASE SIX!

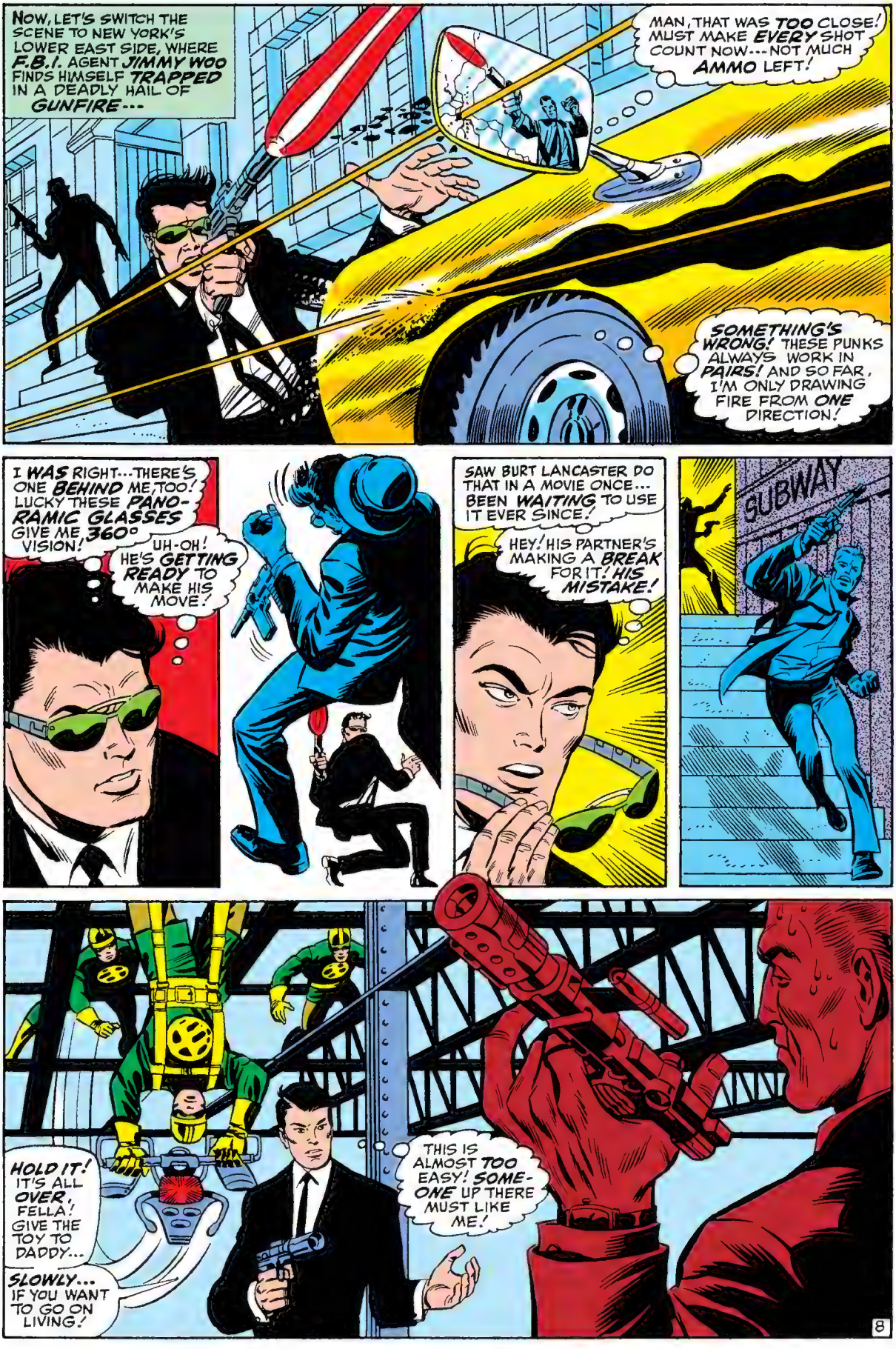
MEANWHILE, INSIDE...
NOTHING MORE TO DO BUT GET THESE JOKERS ON ICE!
RIGHT, SIR! BUT JUST IMAGINE... SAVING ALL OF MANHATTAN!
THAT JUST ABOUT WRAPS IT UP, SOLDIER!
YEAH! WELL, KEEP IT TO YOURSELF, MISTER! THERE'S OVER A MILLION HEARTS STILL BEATIN' DOWN THERE! WHO KNOWS WHAT WOULD'A HAPPENED IF WE HAD FOULED UP! SO LET'S NOT WORRY 'EM, HUH?
YOU CALLED IT! AND LET'S KEEP HOPING OUR LUCK DOESN'T CHANGE!

YOU TOOK THE WORDS RIGHT OUTTA MY MOUTH, FELLA! 'CAUSE LUCK'S WHAT WE'RE GONNA NEED BEFORE THIS GAME'S OVER!
AND WHEN WILL THAT BE, SIR?
WHO CAN SAY? OUR BEST MAN'S WORKIN' ON IT RIGHT NOW!
I KNOW... I LIT HIS CIGAR JUST BEFORE HE JUMPED!


JUST LIKE I FIGURED... THE CLAW'S SHIP HEADIN' INTO SOME KINDA AUTOMATIC LOCK!
LOOKS LIKE I QUIT HITCHIN' A RIDE JUST IN TIME! THEY WOULD'A SPOTTED ME FOR SURE INSIDE THAT THING!
BUT, SMOKING A STOGIE IS THE LAST THING SHIELD'S INDESTRUCTIBLE AGENT HAS IN MIND AT THIS PARTICULAR MOMENT...
FER ALL I KNOW THEY GOT ME LINED UP IN THEIR SIGHTS RIGHT NOW!
ANYWAY, AIN'T NOTHIN' I CAN DO OUT HERE! I'M GOIN' IN AN' THAT'S IT!
BUT FIRST, I GOTTA RIG UP MY AIR-RECYCLER OR I AIN'T GOIN' NOWHERE!
OKAY, FURY! NOW GET TO WORK!
NO TIME TA BE SUBTLE! IF I'M GONNA GET INSIDE, THE FASTER THE BETTER!
AN' THIS LITTLE PYRO-BAND OUGHTTA DO IT JUST RIGHT! GREAT GADGET FER MAKIN' YER OWN DOORWAYS..!
GOTTA PRESS THE STUD... NOW!
YEAH! IT'S BURNIN' RIGHT THRU THE BLASTED WALL! SO FAR...SO GOOD!
THAT'S IT... I'M IN!
NUTS! CAN'T REACH THE SURFACE INSIDE THIS UNDERWATER LOCK! IT'S SCREENED OFF!
NAW! WHAT'M I TALKIN' ABOUT? MY LASE-CLIPPERS'LL GET ME THRU LIKE A FERRARI IN A STOCK CAR RACE!


SECONDS LATER...
THIS JOINT'S LOADED WITH ALARMS AN' ELECTRONIC EYES...GOTTA PUT THE KIBOSH ON 'EM!
NOW, IF THE GAFFER TAUGHT ME RIGHT, CROSSIN' THESE WIRES OUGHTTA FREEZE THE IMAGE ON EVERY MONITOR ON THIS CIRCUIT!
THAT DOES IT! NEXT STEP... CHECK THIS CRUMMY DIVE OUT WITH MY SPY RAY LENS!
YEAH! THIS GIZMO'S TOO MUCH! IT LETS ME SEE RIGHT THRU SOLID WALLS LIKE THEY WERE GLASS!
HEY! WHAT IN SAM HILL?--THIS LAYOUT LOOKS LIKE A LABYRINTH... BUT MORE'N THAT! TRAPS...HUNDREDS OF 'EM... WAITIN' FOR ME...LIKE A MAZE OF DEATH!
SO THAT'S THE CHANCE I GOTTA TAKE... COMES WITH THE PRICE OF ADMISSION!
WHAT THE--? I ONLY TOOK TWO STEPS... AN' IT LOOKS LIKE I WALKED A MILE!
THE WALLS PAINTED... LIKE OPTICAL ILLUSIONS... IMPOSSIBLE TA BACK-TRACK!
OKAY! ROUND ONE FOR SHIELD! I CAN HARDLY WAIT TA SEE WHAT'S COMIN' UP NEXT!
SO LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS IF I TOSS AN INCENDIARY FLARE AT 'EM!
YEAH! JUST LIKE I THOUGHT! YA COULD SAY THAT KINDA TOOK THE HEAT OFF ME!
THOOM!
NOTHIN' TO IT! JUST LIKE THE FUN HOUSE AT CONEY...
CRIPES!! WHAT'S THAT!?
DARTS-- HEADIN' TOWARD ME!
LIKE SOME KINDA MINIATURE HEAT-SEEKIN' MISSILES!
6

HEY! AM I NUTS, OR ARE THOSE STAIRS UPSIDE DOWN?
NOT THAT IT MAKES ANY DIFFERENCE, 'CAUSE I'M GOIN' UP THERE NO MATTER WHAT!
MEBBE I CAN TAKE A SHORT CUT THRU THIS JOINT!
GRAPPLIN' HOOK--- DON'T FAIL ME NOW!
THAT GUY DAREDEVIL OUGHTTA TAKE SOME LESSONS FROM ME!
NEED SOMETHIN' NOW TA GET THRU THE ROOF! AND AN ACID PELLET SHOULD DO THE JOB JUST RIGHT!
OKAY, FURY--- SECOND INNING!
SO, OKAY! I GOT A COUPLA MORE POINTS ON MY SCORE-CARD! SO THAT AND A DIME'LL BUY ME COFFEE!
I'M NOTHIN' IF I CAN'T MAKE IT THROUGH WHATEVER'S AHEAD!
THE NEXT BREATH I TAKE COULD GET ME A BELLYFUL OF POISON GAS!
WHEW! LOOKS LIKE SOMETHIN' OUT OF AN OLD BELA LUGOSI FLICK!
THE WALLS MUST BE RIGGED TA CLOSE WHEN WEIGHT TOUCHES THE FLOOR!
NO PROBLEM FER ME TA SWITCH ON THE MAGNETIC COILS IN MY BOOTS!
JUST WATCH YER STEP, FURY!
THE NEXT DOOR I OPEN COULD GET ME BLOWN FROM HERE TO KINGDOM COME!
I GOTTA MAKE IT ALL THE WAY--- OR DIE TRYIN'!


NOW, LET'S SWITCH THE SCENE TO NEW YORK'S LOWER EAST SIDE, WHERE F.B.I. AGENT JIMMY WOO FINDS HIMSELF TRAPPED IN A DEADLY HAIL OF GUNFIRE---
MAN, THAT WAS TOO CLOSE! MUST MAKE EVERY SHOT COUNT NOW---NOT MUCH AMMO LEFT!
SOMETHING'S WRONG! THESE PUNKS ALWAYS WORK IN PAIRS! AND SO FAR, I'M ONLY DRAWING FIRE FROM ONE DIRECTION!
I WAS RIGHT---THERE'S ONE BEHIND ME, TOO! LUCKY THESE PANORAMIC GLASSES GIVE ME 360° VISION!
UH-OH! HE'S GETTING READY TO MAKE HIS MOVE!
SAW BURT LANCASTER DO THAT IN A MOVIE ONCE... BEEN WAITING TO USE IT EVER SINCE!
HEY! HIS PARTNER'S MAKING A BREAK FOR IT! HIS MISTAKE!
SUBWAY
HOLD IT! IT'S ALL OVER, FELLA! GIVE THE TOY TO DADDY...
SLOWLY... IF YOU WANT TO GO ON LIVING!
THIS IS ALMOST TOO EASY! SOMEONE UP THERE MUST LIKE ME!

AND, AT THAT MOMENT, IN THE YELLOW CLAW'S UNDERWATER INNER-DOMINION ---
AT LAST...VENGEANCE IS MINE! TODAY THE WORLD WILL ROCK BENEATH THE WRATH OF THE YELLOW CLAW!
UNCLE, NO! YOUR PROMISE...THAT JIMMY WOO REMAIN SAFE FROM YOUR PROCEEDINGS! YOU CANNOT VIOLATE THAT OATH!
SILENCE! DOES THE VOLCANO PAUSE FOR THE BIRD IN FLIGHT?
THEN, IN A HELIX OF SEARING LIGHT, THE INERT FORM OF THE DARING F.B.I. AGENT APPEARS IN THE FANTASTIC MATTER-WARP APPARATUS ---
PLEASE, CELESTIAL UNCLE! YOUR HUMBLE AND DEVOTED NIECE BEGS YOU NOT TO BREAK YOUR SACRED VOW! SHOULD JIMMY WOO DIE BY YOUR HAND, THEN THIS ONE'S LIFE WOULD ALSO FADE!
THEN LET IT BE, IF IT MUST BE SO! THIS TIME I MUST NOT---I WILL NOT BE CHEATED! TOO LONG HAVE I BORNE THE BURDEN OF THIS DEATH FEUD!
TOO OFTEN HAVE I FACED THE SHAME OF DEFEAT! THIS VICTORY MUST BE MINE, SUWAN!
NOTHING CAN STOP YOUR BELOVED JIMMY WOO FROM BEING THE VICTIM OF THE THERMO-FRIGID INTENSI-RAY MACHINE IN WHICH HE IS NOW HELPLESSLY CONFINED!
SECONDS FROM NOW, HE WILL BE POLARIZED TO DEATH!
17
9

COOL IT, CREEP... OR YOU'RE THE ONE'S GONNA GET HIS TAIL POLARIZED!
THE SHOW'S OVER!
FURY!
YOU WERE A FOOL TO COME HERE... TO MY SUBSURFACE CITADEL!
FOR HERE, IN MY REALM OF EVIL, YOU SHALL DIE! BUT FIRST, WITNESS THE FATE OF ANOTHER SWINE!
THIS SWITCH SEALS HIS DOOM... FOREVER!
KLIK!
HOLD! SUWAN, I FORBID YOU TO MAKE A MOVE!
I AM YOUR NIECE AND BOUND TO YOU BY ANCESTRAL HONOR, BUT AM I NOT FIRST A WOMAN?
GUARDS! STOP HER!
NO MATTER WHAT BEFALLS, I CANNOT STAND BY AND WATCH THE TRUE LOVE OF MY HEART PERISH!
FORGET IT, CLAW! THE HEAT BLAST FROM THESE NOVA BULLETS WILL KEEP YOUR HOODS OUTTA THE PICTURE AWHILE!

I MUST STOP HER, FOOL! OR, SHE, TOO, WILL MEET DEATH'S ANGEL!
NEVER! DO YOU THINK ME SO MINDLESS AS TO LET YOU ONCE AGAIN REGAIN THE OFFENSIVE? EVEN AT THIS MOMENT, YOUR FOLLY AMUSES ME!
LEGGO MY GUN HAND, YA MADMAN! I'LL CREAM THAT MACHINE MYSELF!
SUWAN--- SUWAN!! SHE--- SHE'S DEAD!
AND YOU KILLED HER--- BOTH OF YOU!
SHE EVEN SAVED YOUR LIFE, FURY, AND YOU DIDN'T HELP HER NOW! YOU KILLED HER, JUST AS MUCH AS HE DID WITH THAT MACHINE!
YOU'LL BOTH PAY! I SWEAR IT! Y'HEAR? I SWEAR IT!
NEXT ISH: "CLIMAX OF HATE!"
11

STRANGE TALES
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
NICK FURY, AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D.™
and DOCTOR STRANGE™
MCG
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
12¢ IND.
167 APR
STERANKO

# NICK FURY, AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D.

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS INTERNATIONAL ESPIONAGE LAW-ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

STAN LEE, EDITOR
JIM STERANKO, WRITER/ILLUSTRATOR
JOE SINNOTT, INKER
SAM ROSEN, LETTERER

MERELY ONE OF THE GREATEST TEAMS MARVEL HAS EVER ASSEMBLED!

THE YELLOW CLAW'S PLAN TO SILENCE JIMMY WOO FOREVER HAS GONE WILD! INSTEAD, THE F.B.I. AGENT CLUTCHES THE LIFELESS FORM OF THE GIRL HE LOVES, AS A FLOOD OF BLACK TORMENT TEARS AT HIS SOUL! THOUGH BOTH COULD HAVE PREVENTED THE DEATH OF SUWAN, NICK FURY AND THE INSIDIOUS MASTER OF EVIL WERE LOCKED IN MORTAL COMBAT... EACH UNWILLING TO SURRENDER HIS POSITION OF ATTACK! THE ULTIMATE CLIMAX OF HATE NOW BEGINS WITH BUT SECONDS REMAINING UNTIL THE FINAL...

I WAS TO BE THE ONE! AND--AND YET SHE TOOK MY PLACE WITHOUT EVEN A KISS BEFORE DYING! CAN THIS BE THE PRICE OF JUSTICE?

NEVER WILL SHE SEE ANOTHER SUNRISE! RATHER I HAD DIED A THOUSAND TIMES! WE DARED NOT SHARE OUR LOVE--AND NOW MY HEART ONLY CRIES VENGEANCE!

SLEEP LONG, MY LOVE!

SHE'S GONE! IF ONLY YOU'D HAVE RELEASED ME IN TIME, FOOL! NOW, YOU'LL BOTH PAY WITH YOUR LIVES!

FORGET IT, YA MADMAN! FURY'S TAKIN' OVER ... NOW!

# ARMAGEDDON!

SUDDENLY, BEFORE ANY CAN MAKE ANOTHER MOVE, THE YELLOW CLAW'S ENTIRE COMPLEX IS ROCKED BY AN EAR-SHATTERING PAROXYSM OF PENETRATING BRUTE FORCE! RIPPING INEXORABLY UPWARD THRU STEEL AND STONE, COMES AN INCREDIBLE, TAPERING LOBSTER-LIKE SNOUT, LIKE SOME KIND OF TITANIC MONSTER OF THE DEEP! FLAILING WITH SPIKE AND SHEAR, THE COLOSSAL DREADNOUGHT CLEAVES ONWARD, WHILE A VANGUARD OF SHIELD'S SUICIDE SQUAD ATTACKS WITH THE VEHEMENT FORCE OF A WILD TIDAL WAVE!
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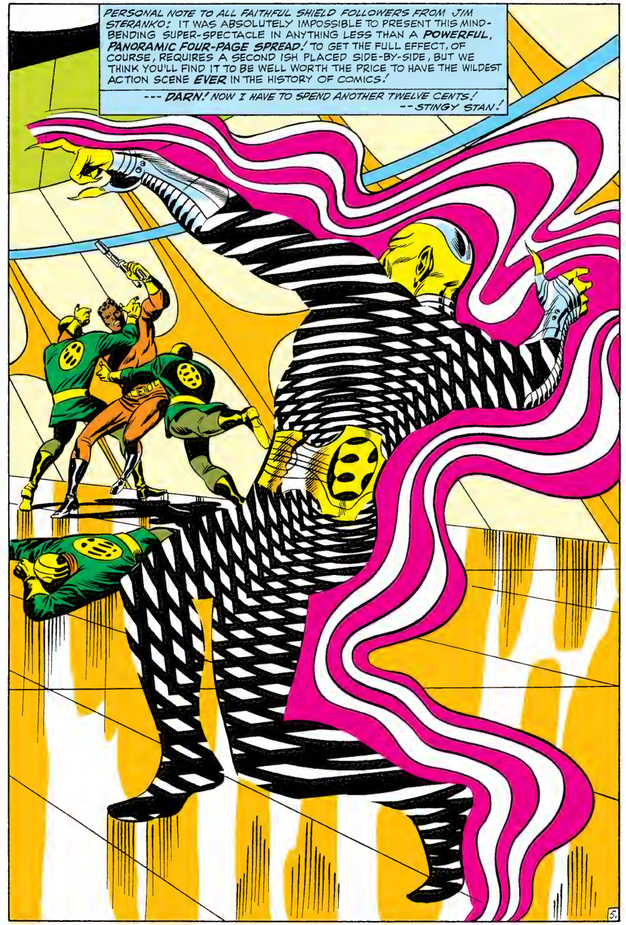
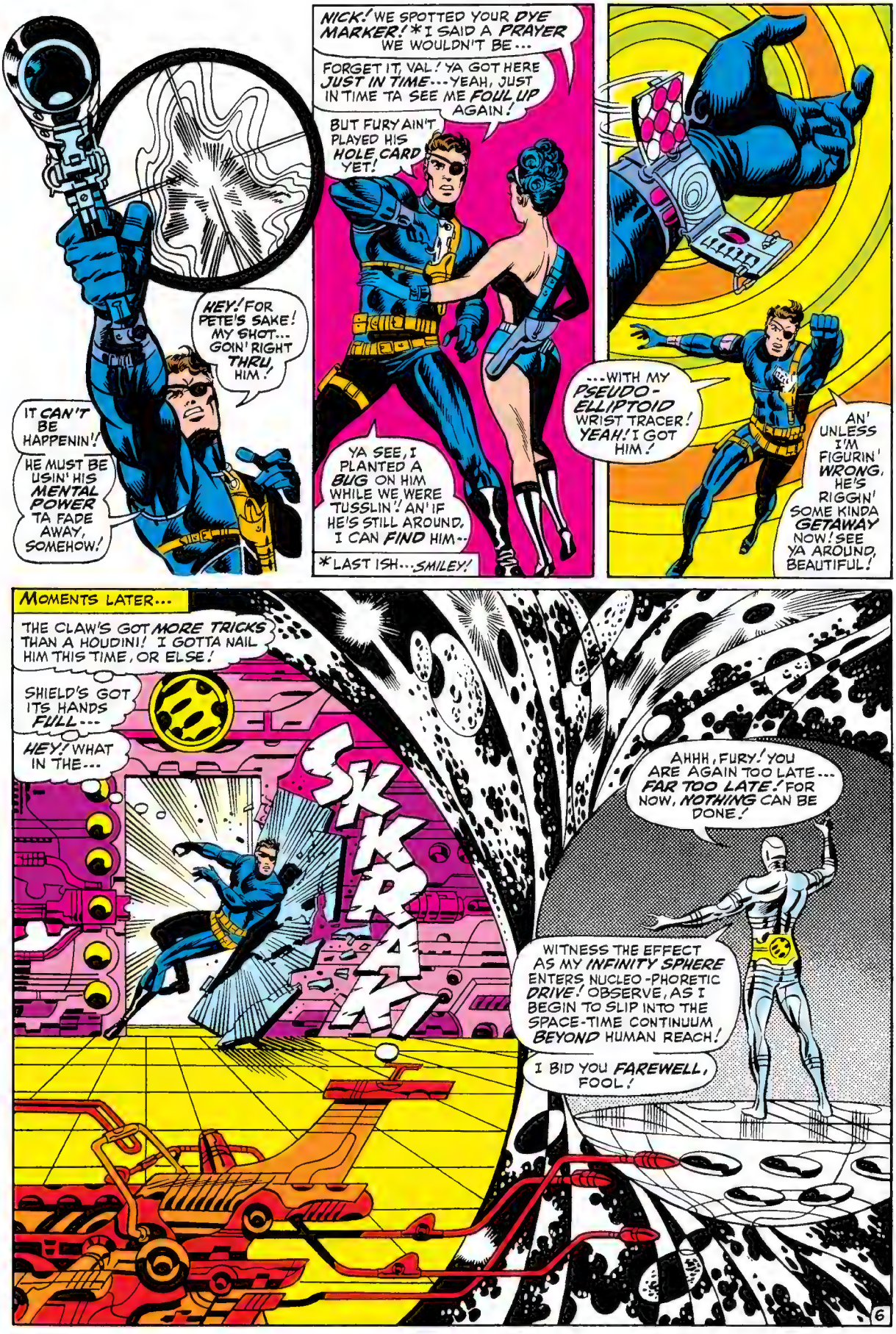
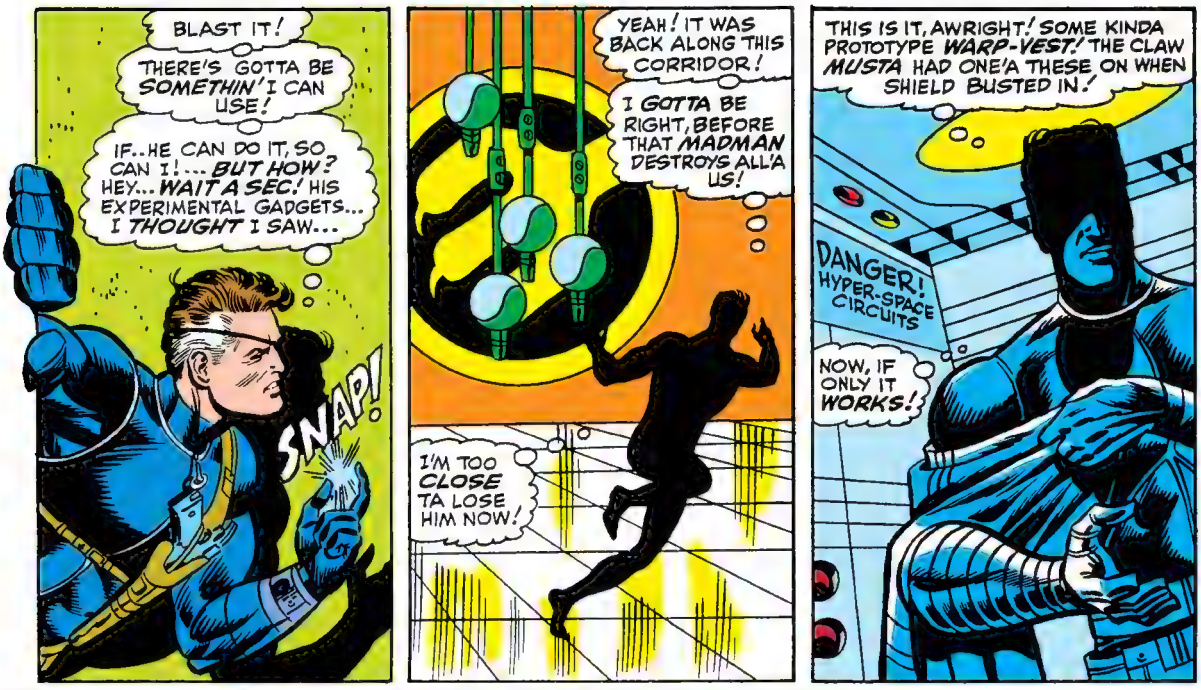
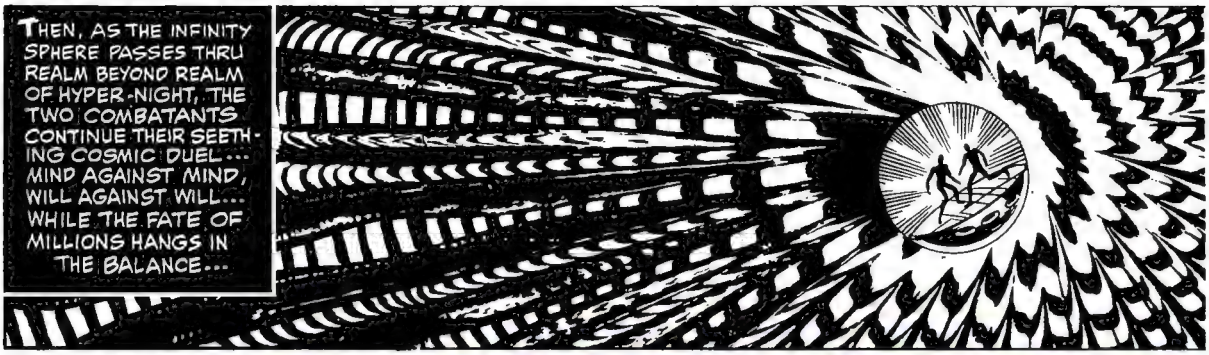

PERSONAL NOTE TO ALL FAITHFUL SHIELD FOLLOWERS FROM JIM STERANKO: IT WAS ABSOLUTELY IMPOSSIBLE TO PRESENT THIS MIND-BENDING SUPER-SPECTACLE IN ANYTHING LESS THAN A POWERFUL, PANORAMIC FOUR-PAGE SPREAD! TO GET THE FULL EFFECT, OF COURSE, REQUIRES A SECOND ISH PLACED SIDE-BY-SIDE, BUT WE THINK YOU'LL FIND IT TO BE WELL WORTH THE PRICE TO HAVE THE WILDEST ACTION SCENE EVER IN THE HISTORY OF COMICS!
--- DARN! NOW I HAVE TO SPEND ANOTHER TWELVE CENTS!
--STINGY STAN!
5.

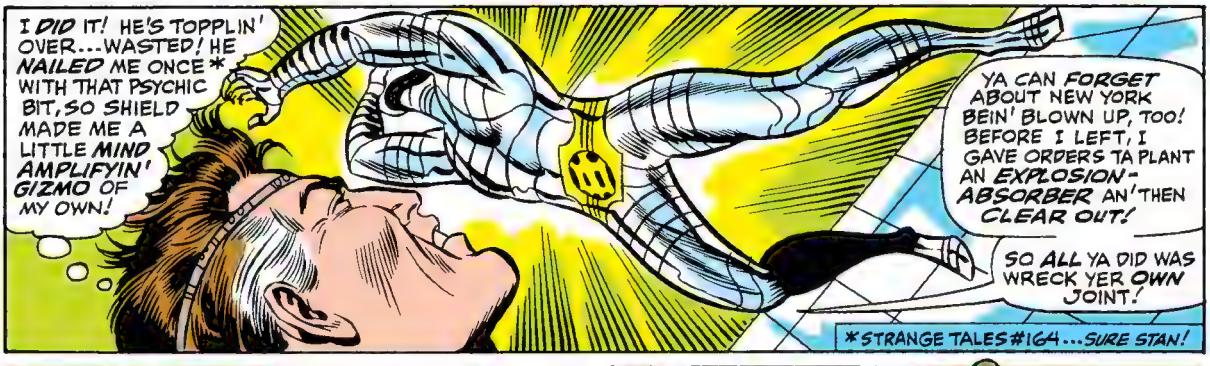

IT CAN'T BE HAPPENIN'!
HE MUST BE USIN' HIS MENTAL POWER TA FADE AWAY, SOMEHOW!
HEY! FOR PETE'S SAKE! MY SHOT... GOIN' RIGHT THRU HIM!
NICK! WE SPOTTED YOUR DYE MARKER! *I SAID A PRAYER WE WOULDN'T BE...
FORGET IT, VAL! YA GOT HERE JUST IN TIME...YEAH, JUST IN TIME TA SEE ME FOUL UP AGAIN!
BUT FURY AIN'T PLAYED HIS HOLE CARD YET!
YA SEE, I PLANTED A BUG ON HIM WHILE WE WERE TUSSLIN'! AN' IF HE'S STILL AROUND, I CAN FIND HIM--
*LAST ISH...SMILEY!
...WITH MY PSEUDO-ELLIPTOID WRIST TRACER! YEAH! I GOT HIM!
AN' UNLESS I'M FIGURIN' WRONG, HE'S RIGGIN' SOME KINDA GETAWAY NOW! SEE YA AROUND, BEAUTIFUL!
MOMENTS LATER...
THE CLAW'S GOT MORE TRICKS THAN A HOUDINI! I GOTTA NAIL HIM THIS TIME, OR ELSE!
SHIELD'S GOT ITS HANDS FULL---
HEY! WHAT IN THE---
SKRAK!
AHHH, FURY! YOU ARE AGAIN TOO LATE... FAR TOO LATE! FOR NOW, NOTHING CAN BE DONE!
WITNESS THE EFFECT AS MY INFINITY SPHERE ENTERS NUCLEO-PHORETIC DRIVE! OBSERVE, AS I BEGIN TO SLIP INTO THE SPACE-TIME CONTINUUM BEYOND HUMAN REACH!
I BID YOU FAREWELL, FOOL!
6

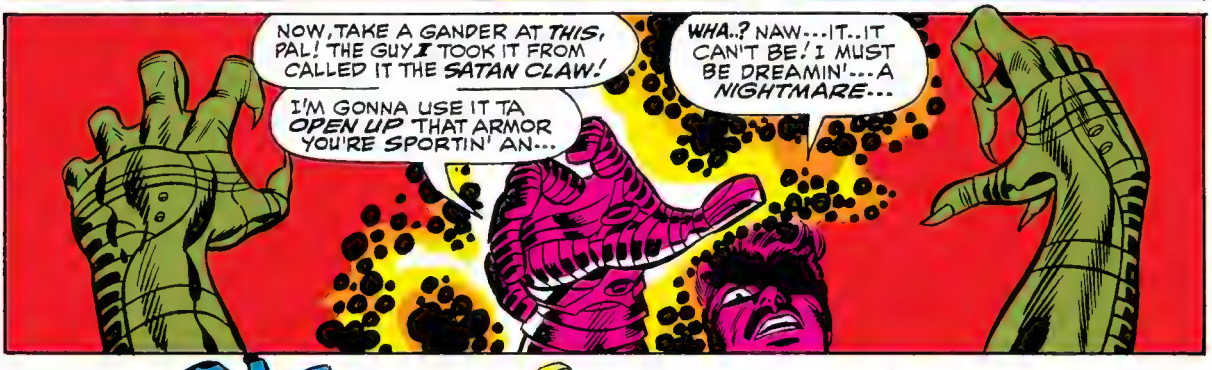

BLAST IT!
THERE'S GOTTA BE SOMETHIN' I CAN USE!
IF..HE CAN DO IT, SO CAN I!... BUT HOW? HEY... WAIT A SEC! HIS EXPERIMENTAL GADGETS... I THOUGHT I SAW...
SNAP!
YEAH! IT WAS BACK ALONG THIS CORRIDOR!
I GOTTA BE RIGHT, BEFORE THAT MADMAN DESTROYS ALL'A US!
I'M TOO CLOSE TA LOSE HIM NOW!
THIS IS IT, AWRIGHT! SOME KINDA PROTOTYPE WARP-VEST! THE CLAW MUSTA HAD ONE'A THESE ON WHEN SHIELD BUSTED IN!
DANGER! HYPER-SPACE CIRCUITS
NOW, IF ONLY IT WORKS!

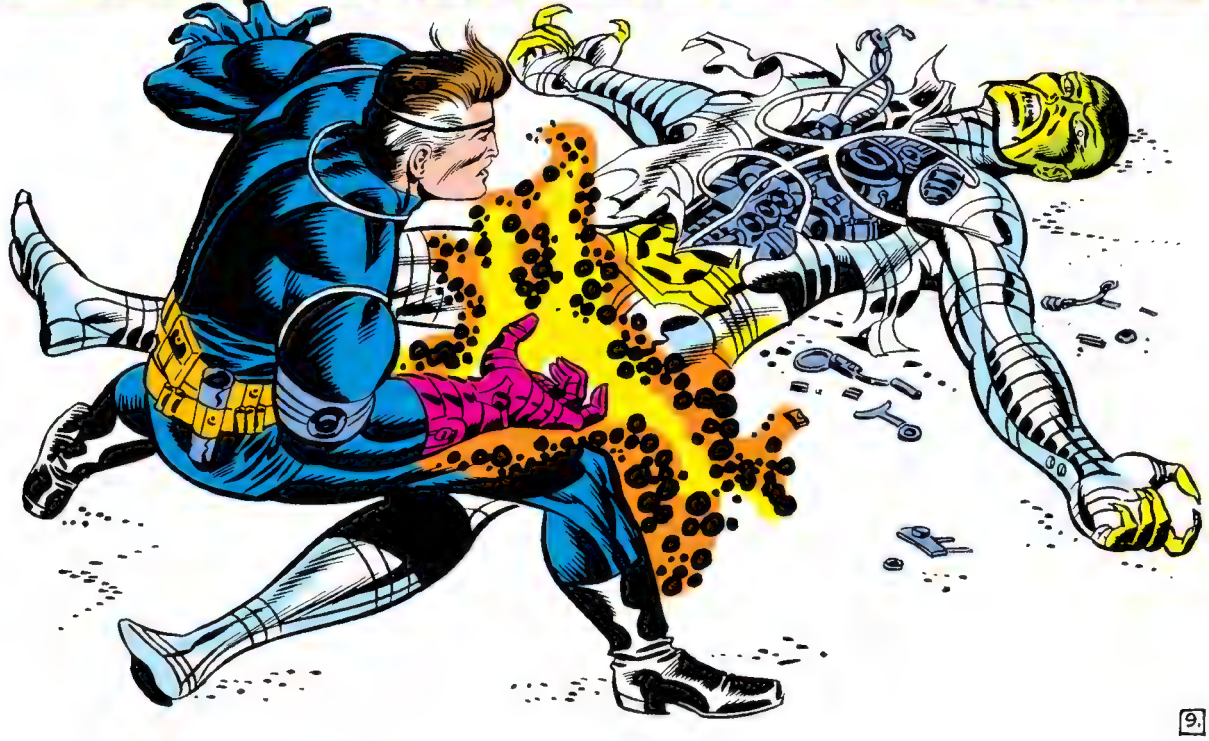
AND, AN INSTANT LATER, THE SHIELD RAMROD ACTIVATES THE FANTASTIC DEVICE, RISKING HIS LIFE IN A *MILLION-TO-ONE CHANCE* HE CAN *LOCK IN* ON THE YELLOW CLAW'S COSMIC TRAJECTORY! SUDDENLY, THE SPELL-BINDING *UNDERCURRENT OF INFINITY* PULLS HIM BEYOND THE BLACK TIDE OF SPACE, BETWEEN *LIFE* AND *DEATH*, BETWEEN *TIME* AND *ETERNITY*, BETWEEN *HEAVEN* AND *HELL*, IN AN ASTOUNDING MISSION OF *GALACTIC REVENGE* WHERE ONLY *ONE* CAN SURVIVE!

THEN, IN AN INCALCULABLE MEASURE OF TIME, AS ANY LIVING BEING NOW KNOWS IT, THE IMPOSSIBLE JOURNEY IS TERMINATED... THE FINAL MOMENT OF SHOWDOWN ABOUT TO DAWN... THE BEGINNING OF THE END...
AT LAST! MY VICTORY IS COMPLETE! I HAVE ONLY TO PRESS THIS NUCLEAR DETONATOR AND MY CITADEL OF CRIME UNDER NEW YORK'S EAST RIVER WILL EXPLODE WITH THE FORCE OF A THOUSAND VOLCANOS, AND WITH IT... SHIELD!
THERE... THE DEED IS DONE! HA! THE YELLOW CLAW... TRIUMPHANT!
I HAVE WON THE GAME! I... HUH? YOU!! BUT IT CAN'T BE! YOU'RE DEAD! YOU'RE ALL DEAD!
I MYSELF PUSHED THE BUTTON! SHIELD IS DEAD!
OH, I SEE! YOU HAVE MY WARP VEST... CARELESS OF ME! BUT A MISTAKE I SOON SHALL RECTIFY!
SO, WHY DO YOU NOT SPEAK? DOES YOUR ABJECT HELPLESSNESS SO COMPLETELY OVERWHELM YOU? DO YOU NOW REALIZE TO FACE ME IN THIS HYPER-DIMENSIONAL REALM MEANS CERTAIN DEATH?
HA! JUST AS I SUSPECTED, YOU SPINELESS CLOWN! YOU ARE SPEECHLESS! IT WILL BE MY PLEASURE TO.. HUH? WHAT... WHAT'S THAT YOU'RE DOING? SAY SOMETHING... BEFORE...
VERY WELL! SAY NOTHING THEN! FOR YOU'VE ONLY SECONDS LEFT BEFORE YOU FACE MY DEADLY PSYCHIC STORM... UNDERSTAND, FOOL?
YOU'RE THRU, CLAW!


THEN, AS THE INFINITY SPHERE PASSES THRU REALM BEYOND REALM OF HYPER-NIGHT, THE TWO COMBATANTS CONTINUE THEIR SEETHING COSMIC DUEL... MIND AGAINST MIND, WILL AGAINST WILL... WHILE THE FATE OF MILLIONS HANGS IN THE BALANCE...


I DID IT! HE'S TOPPLIN' OVER...WASTED! HE NAILED ME ONCE * WITH THAT PSYCHIC BIT, SO SHIELD MADE ME A LITTLE MIND AMPLIFYIN' GIZMO OF MY OWN!
YA CAN FORGET ABOUT NEW YORK BEIN' BLOWN UP, TOO! BEFORE I LEFT, I GAVE ORDERS TA PLANT AN EXPLOSION-ABSORBER AN' THEN CLEAR OUT!
SO ALL YA DID WAS WRECK YER OWN JOINT!
*STRANGE TALES #164...SURE STAN!


NOW, TAKE A GANDER AT THIS, PAL! THE GUY I TOOK IT FROM CALLED IT THE SATAN CLAW!
I'M GONNA USE IT TA OPEN UP THAT ARMOR YOU'RE SPORTIN' AN...
WHA..? NAW...IT..IT CAN'T BE! I MUST BE DREAMIN'...A NIGHTMARE...



AND, IN AN ANCIENT, SPRAWLING CASTLE, SOMEWHERE IN THE HEART OF THE BAVARIAN ALPS IN THE KINGDOM OF *LATVERIA*, A SCENE OF UNCOMMON SINGULARITY OCCURS...

MY-SENSORS-DETECT-A-DECISIVE-MOVE--- THE-WHITE-KING-PIECE-CALLED-FURY-HAS-ELIMINATED-THE-OPPONENT-KING

DESPITE-BLACK'S-BRILLIANT-MIDDLE-GAME-MOVES-THE-SHIELD-ROOKS-HAVE-EXECUTED-SUB-ENTROPIC-MANEUVER-LL-11538-BARCZA-SYSTEM-VARIATION-AGAINST-BLACK-KING'S-PAWNS

THUS-MY-COMPUTERS-SHOW-THE-GAME-HAS-ENDED--- YOUR-HUMANOID-CHESS-PIECES-ARE-FINALLY-DEFEATED-BY-THE-PROTAGONISTS--- YOU-ARE-THEREBY-CHECKMATED--- MY-PROGNOSTICATING-CALCULATORS-HAVE-CORRECTLY-PREDICTED-THE-FINAL-POSITIONS--

THE-PRIME-MOVER-HAS-THUS-SPOKEN!



*HAH!* THEN, IT SHALL BE SO! I ALREADY GROW *WEARY* WITH THIS *TRIVIAL DIVERSION* MY INGENIOUS MIND HAS SPAWNED! ALREADY, THE PLAY HAS GONE ON PERIODICALLY FOR MANY *MONTHS!*

STILL, THE ANIMATED *FARCE* 'TWIXT THE MEN OF SHIELD AND MY *AUTOMATED PLAYERS* DID FREQUENTLY PIQUE MY FANCY! CERTAINLY, I HAVE BEEN AMPLY REWARDED FOR CONSTRUCTING SUCH AN ELABORATE *COMPUTER COMPLEX!*

EVEN A MONARCH SUCH AS MYSELF IS *DESERVING* OF OCCASIONAL *DROLL SPORT!*

SO THEN, *NEVER* LET IT BE SAID *DR. DOOM* WAS A POOR LOSER!

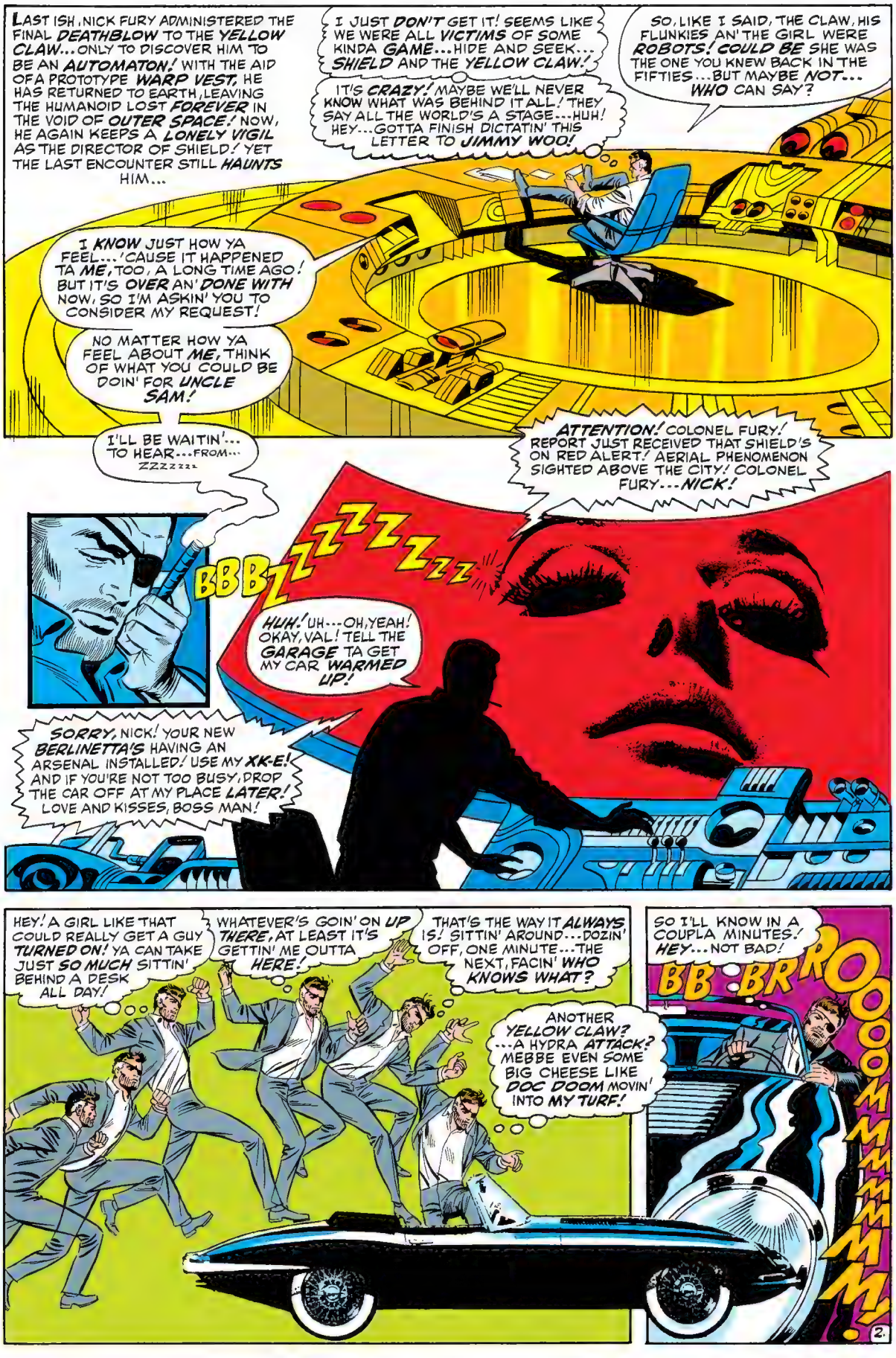
BLAST THOSE SWINE! I *LOATHE* FAILURE! EVEN WITH MY ADVANCED WEAPONS AND MATTER TRANSMITTERS, MY FORMATIONS WERE LOST!

PITY I MUST ATTEND TO THE MORE PRESSING MATTERS OF STATE!

YET, PERHAPS SOMEDAY I *PERSONALLY* MAY--- HMMM-- YES--- SOMEDAY!

DON'T MISS NEXT ISH:
**"IN THE WAKE OF A STRANGER!"**

TODAY
EARTH
DIED!
AS RECORDED THAT LAST DAY BY THESE MEN:
LEE
STERANKO
SINNOTT
ROSEN


LAST ISH, NICK FURY ADMINISTERED THE FINAL DEATHBLOW TO THE YELLOW CLAW... ONLY TO DISCOVER HIM TO BE AN AUTOMATON! WITH THE AID OF A PROTOTYPE WARP VEST, HE HAS RETURNED TO EARTH, LEAVING THE HUMANOID LOST FOREVER IN THE VOID OF OUTER SPACE! NOW, HE AGAIN KEEPS A LONELY VIGIL AS THE DIRECTOR OF SHIELD! YET THE LAST ENCOUNTER STILL HAUNTS HIM...
I JUST DON'T GET IT! SEEMS LIKE WE WERE ALL VICTIMS OF SOME KINDA GAME... HIDE AND SEEK... SHIELD AND THE YELLOW CLAW!
SO, LIKE I SAID, THE CLAW, HIS FLUNKIES AN' THE GIRL WERE ROBOTS! COULD BE SHE WAS THE ONE YOU KNEW BACK IN THE FIFTIES... BUT MAYBE NOT... WHO CAN SAY?
IT'S CRAZY! MAYBE WE'LL NEVER KNOW WHAT WAS BEHIND IT ALL! THEY SAY ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE... HUH! HEY... GOTTA FINISH DICTATIN' THIS LETTER TO JIMMY WOO!
I KNOW JUST HOW YA FEEL... 'CAUSE IT HAPPENED TA ME, TOO, A LONG TIME AGO! BUT IT'S OVER AN' DONE WITH NOW, SO I'M ASKIN' YOU TO CONSIDER MY REQUEST!
NO MATTER HOW YA FEEL ABOUT ME, THINK OF WHAT YOU COULD BE DOIN' FOR UNCLE SAM!
I'LL BE WAITIN'... TO HEAR... FROM... ZZZZZZZ
ATTENTION! COLONEL FURY! REPORT JUST RECEIVED THAT SHIELD'S ON RED ALERT! AERIAL PHENOMENON SIGHTED ABOVE THE CITY! COLONEL FURY... NICK!
BBBZZZZZZZZ
HUH! UH... OH, YEAH! OKAY, VAL! TELL THE GARAGE TA GET MY CAR WARMED UP!
SORRY, NICK! YOUR NEW BERLINETTA'S HAVING AN ARSENAL INSTALLED! USE MY XK-E! AND IF YOU'RE NOT TOO BUSY, DROP THE CAR OFF AT MY PLACE LATER! LOVE AND KISSES, BOSS MAN!
HEY! A GIRL LIKE THAT COULD REALLY GET A GUY TURNED ON! YA CAN TAKE JUST SO MUCH SITTIN' BEHIND A DESK ALL DAY!
WHATEVER'S GOIN' ON UP THERE, AT LEAST IT'S GETTIN' ME OUTTA HERE!
THAT'S THE WAY IT ALWAYS IS! SITTIN' AROUND... DOZIN' OFF, ONE MINUTE... THE NEXT, FACIN' WHO KNOWS WHAT?
ANOTHER YELLOW CLAW? ...A HYDRA ATTACK? MEBBE EVEN SOME BIG CHEESE LIKE DOC DOOM MOVIN' INTO MY TURF!
SO I'LL KNOW IN A COUPLA MINUTES! HEY... NOT BAD!
BB-BRROOOOMMMMMMM!
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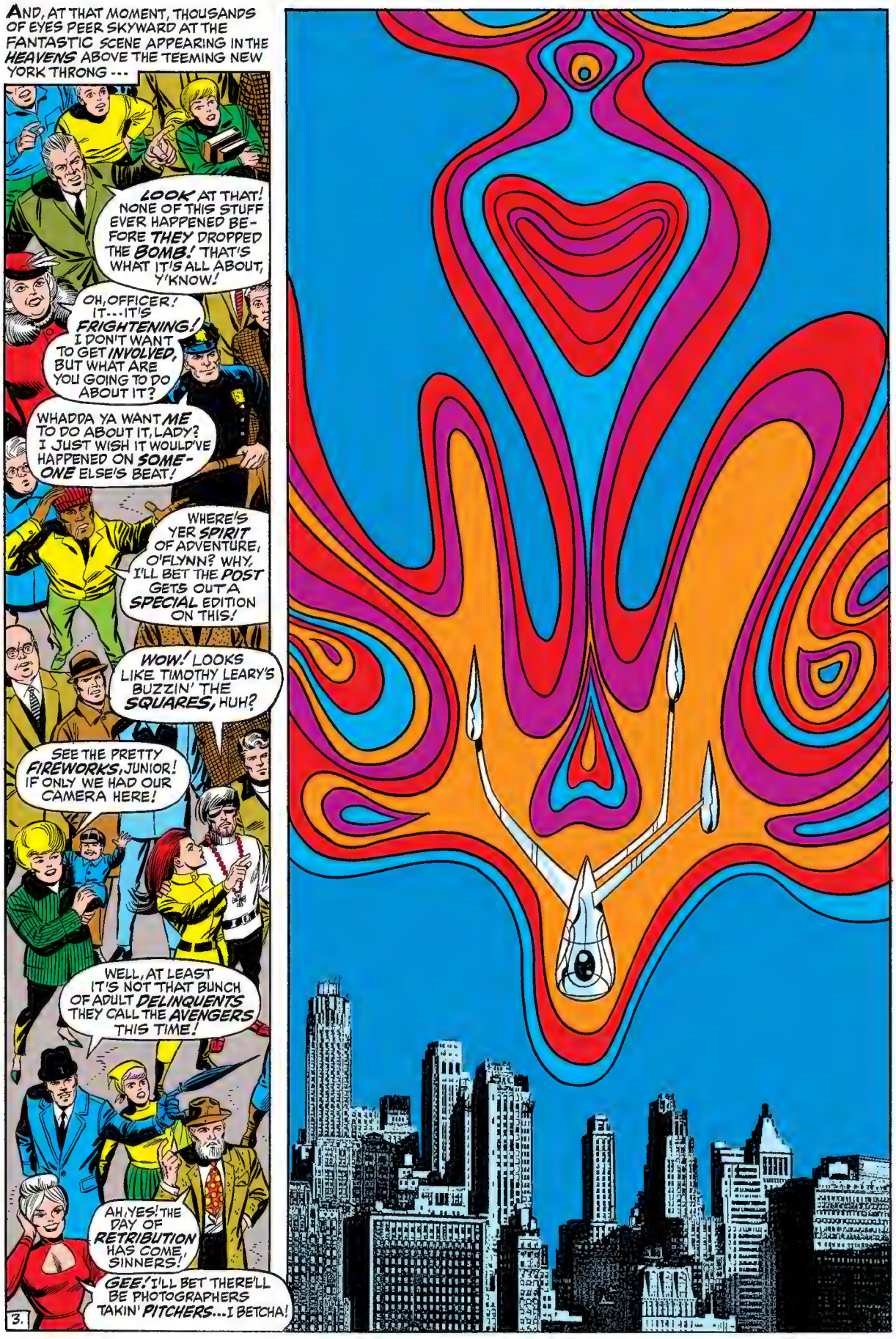
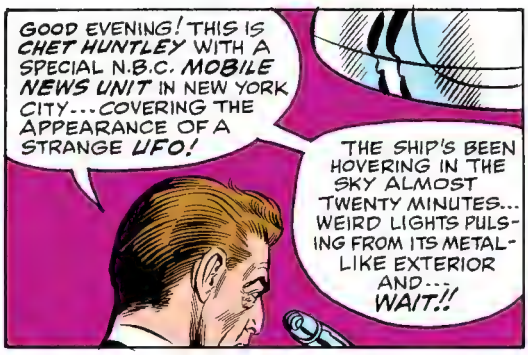
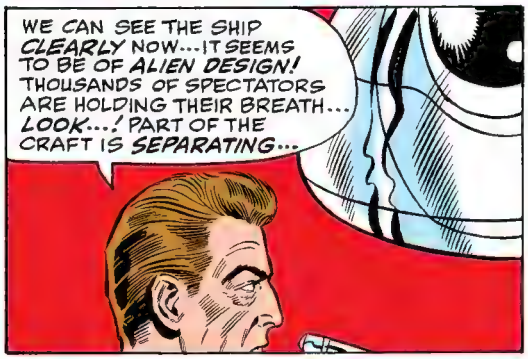
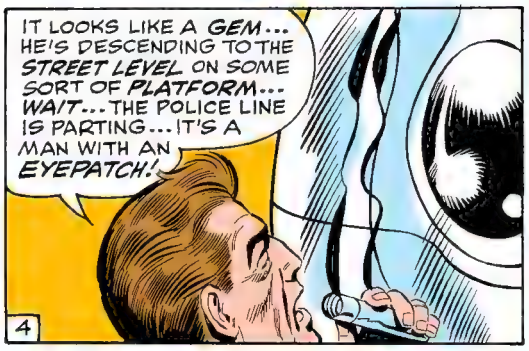

AND, AT THAT MOMENT, THOUSANDS OF EYES PEER SKYWARD AT THE FANTASTIC SCENE APPEARING IN THE HEAVENS ABOVE THE TEEMING NEW YORK THRONG ---
LOOK AT THAT! NONE OF THIS STUFF EVER HAPPENED BEFORE THEY DROPPED THE BOMB! THAT'S WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT, Y'KNOW!
OH, OFFICER! IT---IT'S FRIGHTENING! I DON'T WANT TO GET INVOLVED, BUT WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?
WHADDA YA WANT ME TO DO ABOUT IT, LADY? I JUST WISH IT WOULD'VE HAPPENED ON SOMEONE ELSE'S BEAT!
WHERE'S YER SPIRIT OF ADVENTURE, O'FLYNN? WHY, I'LL BET THE POST GETS OUT A SPECIAL EDITION ON THIS!
WOW! LOOKS LIKE TIMOTHY LEARY'S BUZZIN' THE SQUARES, HUH?
SEE THE PRETTY FIREWORKS, JUNIOR! IF ONLY WE HAD OUR CAMERA HERE!
WELL, AT LEAST IT'S NOT THAT BUNCH OF ADULT DELINQUENTS THEY CALL THE AVENGERS THIS TIME!
AH, YES! THE DAY OF RETRIBUTION HAS COME, SINNERS!
GEE! I'LL BET THERE'LL BE PHOTOGRAPHERS TAKIN' PITCHERS...I BETCHA!
3.


GOOD EVENING! THIS IS CHET HUNTLEY WITH A SPECIAL N.B.C. MOBILE NEWS UNIT IN NEW YORK CITY---COVERING THE APPEARANCE OF A STRANGE UFO!
THE SHIP'S BEEN HOVERING IN THE SKY ALMOST TWENTY MINUTES... WEIRD LIGHTS PULSING FROM ITS METAL-LIKE EXTERIOR AND---WAIT!!

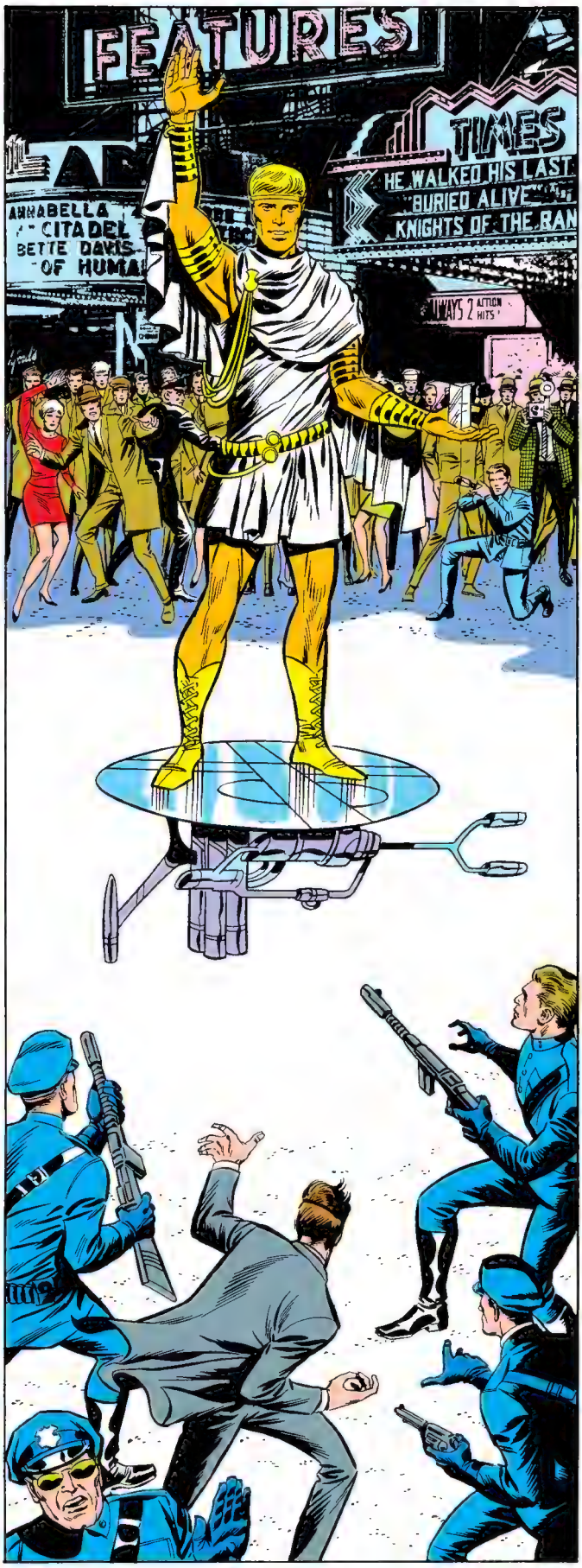
IT'S DESCENDING NOW RATHER RAPIDLY---THE POLICE HAVE EVERY WEAPON AVAILABLE TRAINED ON THE OBJECT---A SHIVER OF AWE, PERHAPS FEAR, PASSES THRU THE CROWD---
OFFICIALS ARE PRESSING THE CROWD BACK--- IT LOOKS LIKE THE FANTASTIC FOUR ARE GIVING THEM A HAND...


WE CAN SEE THE SHIP CLEARLY NOW---IT SEEMS TO BE OF ALIEN DESIGN! THOUSANDS OF SPECTATORS ARE HOLDING THEIR BREATH... LOOK...! PART OF THE CRAFT IS SEPARATING...

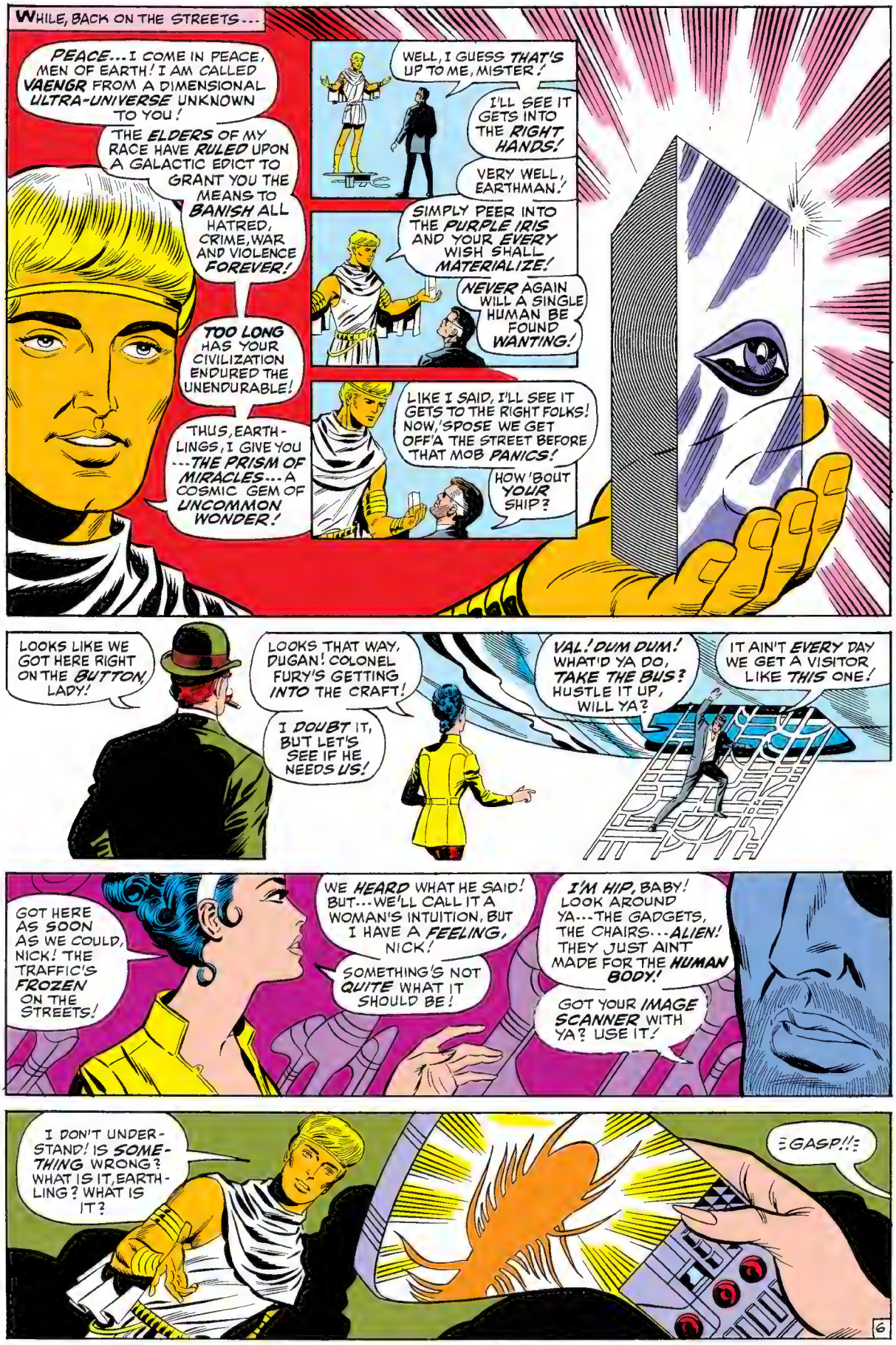
YES! WE CAN SEE IT NOW--- IT---IT'S A MAN...A GOLDEN MAN IN A TUNIC---HE'S HOLDING UP HIS HAND---THE UNIVERSAL GESTURE OF PEACE---AND IN HIS OTHER HAND---


IT LOOKS LIKE A GEM... HE'S DESCENDING TO THE STREET LEVEL ON SOME SORT OF PLATFORM... WAIT...THE POLICE LINE IS PARTING---IT'S A MAN WITH AN EYEPATCH!



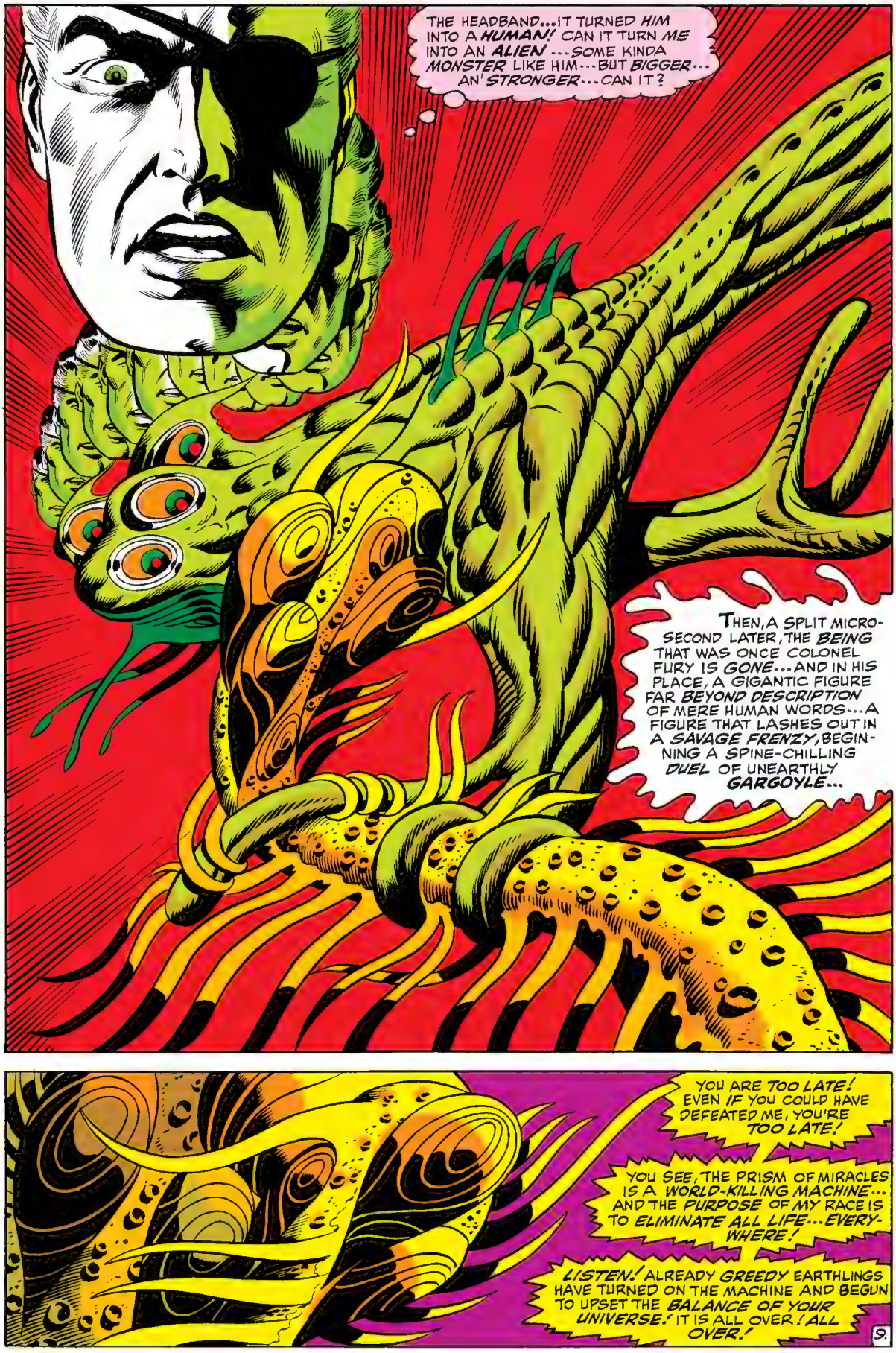

FEATURES
TIMES
HE WALKED HIS LAST
BURIED ALIVE
KNIGHTS OF THE RAN
ANNABELLA
CITADEL
BETTE DAVIS
OF HUMA
ALWAYS 2 ACTION HITS!

MEANWHILE, BACK AT SHIELD HEADQUARTERS.
Y'KNOW, LADY, YER JUST ABOUT THE MOST UNLIKELY SECRET AGENT I EVER SAW!
YES, I KNOW! BUT THAT'S WHAT MAKES ME A GOOD ONE... WOULDN'T YOU SAY?
HUH! UH...OH, YEAH! GUESS I WOULD! AW... YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN!
I SAW YA TEARIN' INTO THOSE BADDIES THE YELLOW CLAW HAD LINED UP!
BUT THERE I GO AGAIN... GABBIN' ABOUT 'IM LIKE HE WUZ A REAL MAN!
FUNNY THOUGH! NICK AINT BEEN THE SAME SINCE KINDA KEEPS TO HISSELF LATELY!
DO YOU SUPPOSE YOU'D BE THE SAME AFTER A TRIP TO HYPER SPACE?
YEAH, YER PROBABLY RIGHT! HE'S GOTTA...
UH-OH! THERE GOES OUR PRIORITY SIGNAL! LET'S GO, COUNTESS!
I HAD A FEELIN' FURY'D CALL US ON THAT BUSINESS WE WERE WATCHIN' ON THE MONITOR SCREEN!
DON'T LOOK LIKE MUCH'A ANYTHING TA ME, THOUGH! BUT LIKE THEY SAY--- YA CAN'T JUDGE A BOOK!
OKAY...DUGAN'S READY FER ACTION! LET'S GET GOIN', LADY!

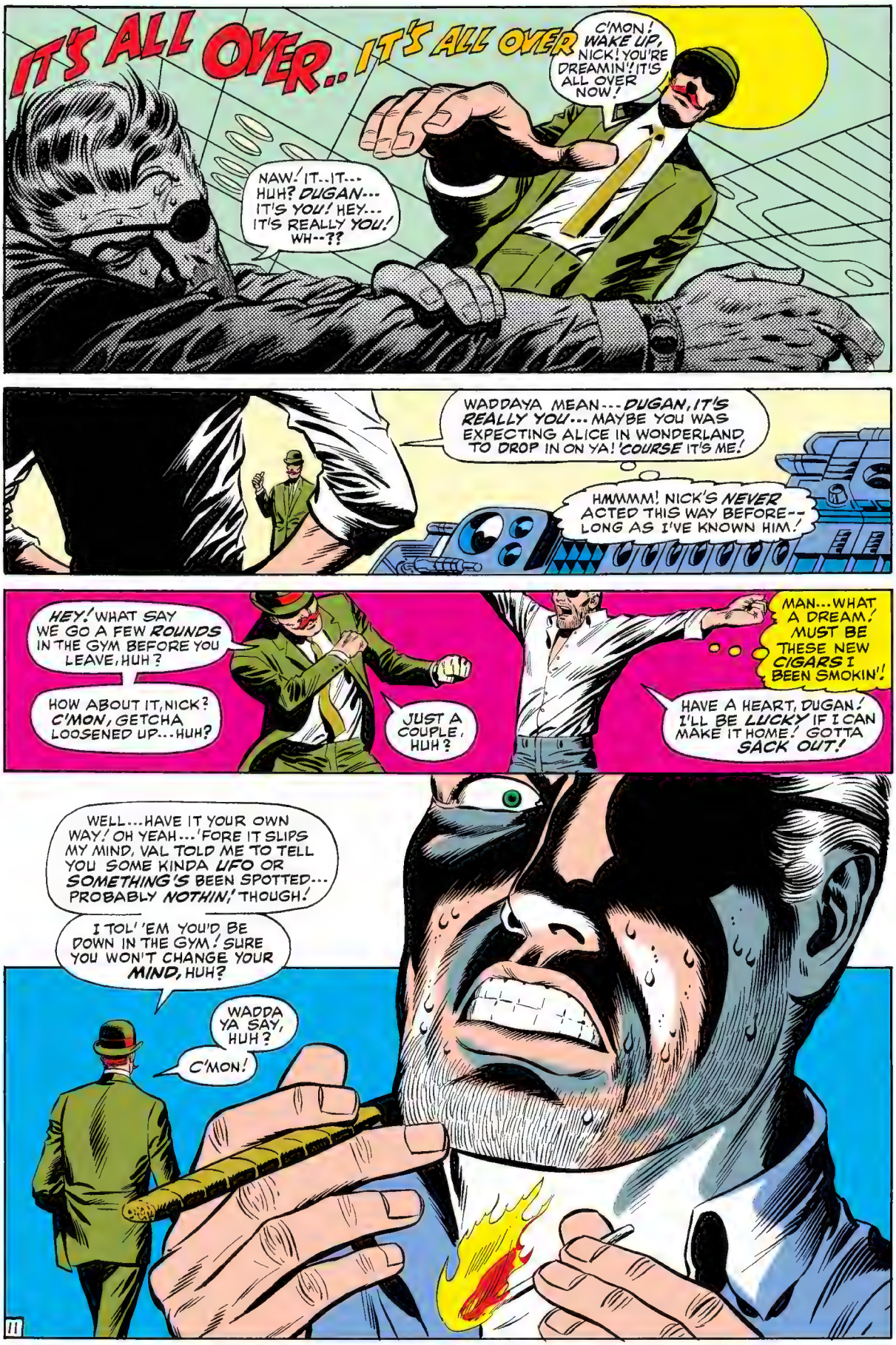

WHILE, BACK ON THE STREETS...
PEACE...I COME IN PEACE, MEN OF EARTH! I AM CALLED VAENGR FROM A DIMENSIONAL ULTRA-UNIVERSE UNKNOWN TO YOU!
THE ELDERS OF MY RACE HAVE RULED UPON A GALACTIC EDICT TO GRANT YOU THE MEANS TO BANISH ALL HATRED, CRIME, WAR AND VIOLENCE FOREVER!
TOO LONG HAS YOUR CIVILIZATION ENDURED THE UNENDURABLE!
THUS, EARTHLINGS, I GIVE YOU ---THE PRISM OF MIRACLES--- A COSMIC GEM OF UNCOMMON WONDER!
WELL, I GUESS THAT'S UP TO ME, MISTER!
I'LL SEE IT GETS INTO THE RIGHT HANDS!
VERY WELL, EARTHMAN!
SIMPLY PEER INTO THE PURPLE IRIS AND YOUR EVERY WISH SHALL MATERIALIZE!
NEVER AGAIN WILL A SINGLE HUMAN BE FOUND WANTING!
LIKE I SAID, I'LL SEE IT GETS TO THE RIGHT FOLKS! NOW, 'SPOSE WE GET OFF'A THE STREET BEFORE THAT MOB PANICS!
HOW 'BOUT YOUR SHIP?
LOOKS LIKE WE GOT HERE RIGHT ON THE BUTTON, LADY!
LOOKS THAT WAY, DUGAN! COLONEL FURY'S GETTING INTO THE CRAFT!
I DOUBT IT, BUT LET'S SEE IF HE NEEDS US!
VAL! DUM DUM! WHAT'D YA DO, TAKE THE BUS? HUSTLE IT UP, WILL YA?
IT AIN'T EVERY DAY WE GET A VISITOR LIKE THIS ONE!
GOT HERE AS SOON AS WE COULD, NICK! THE TRAFFIC'S FROZEN ON THE STREETS!
WE HEARD WHAT HE SAID! BUT---WE'LL CALL IT A WOMAN'S INTUITION, BUT I HAVE A FEELING, NICK!
SOMETHING'S NOT QUITE WHAT IT SHOULD BE!
I'M HIP, BABY! LOOK AROUND YA---THE GADGETS, THE CHAIRS---ALIEN! THEY JUST AIN'T MADE FOR THE HUMAN BODY!
GOT YOUR IMAGE SCANNER WITH YA? USE IT!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND! IS SOMETHING WRONG? WHAT IS IT, EARTHLING? WHAT IS IT?
=GASP!!=
6

AND, IN ANOTHER SECTION OF MANHATTAN, A TALL FIGURE IN AN ORIENTAL ROBE WATCHES THE SHIELD RAMROD ON A MINIATURE VID-RECEPTOR...
"FURY SPEAKIN'! GUESS I OUGHTA BE TALKIN' TO YA FACE-TO-FACE! BUT I GOT A PILE'A DESK WORK HERE, SO I'M SENDING THIS VID-COM TAPE INSTEAD! BEEN TALKIN' TA SOME OF THE SHIELD BOYS 'BOUT MAKIN' JIMMY WOO A PART O' OUR TEAM AN' GOT A MIXED REACTION!"
"A COUPLE OF 'EM GOT THE IDEA YER STILL WRAPPED UP ABOUT THE GIRL! THEY THINK I'D BE TAKIN' A CHANCE GETTIN' YOU INTO SHIELD, 'CAUSE YA STILL GOT IT IN FER ME! BUT I FIGURE THEY GOT IT WRONG! I GOT YOUR RECORDS IN FRONT'A ME NOW...!"
"LOOKS LIKE YOU BEEN CUT OUT TA BE A SHIELD AGENT! 'COURSE I CAN'T MAKE UP YER MIND FOR YA! BUT I GOT A HUNCH THE F.B.I.'S LOSS WOULD BE OUR GAIN! SO LIKE I SAID--"
BUT, AT THAT VERY INSTANT, THE ALIEN STRANGER REALIZES HIS HUMAN GUISE HAS BEEN PENETRATED... AND WITH A MERE GESTURE RELEASES A HORRIFYING BOLT OF LETHAL ENERGY AT THOSE STANDING BEFORE HIM---
7.

NO! BOTH OF 'EM... CHARRED TO A PILE A ASHES!
IT HAD TO BE DONE... FOR THEY HAD DISCOVERED MY SECRET! NO ONE MUST KNOW BEFORE MY MISSION IS ACCOMPLISHED!
THEIRS WAS A QUICK DEATH! NOW...
YOU ARE NEXT, EARTHLING!
MEBBE... MISTER-WHATEVER-YA-ARE... BUT FIRST, I SWEAR I'M GONNA KILL YA FOR WHAT YA JUST DID!
SO MEBBE I CAN'T STOP YA FROM BLASTIN' ME WITH ONE A THEM LIGHTNIN' BOLTS...
BUT THIS MOLD COCCOON PELLET'LL DO THE JOB ALL RIGHT! IN ANOTHER SECOND YOU'LL BE... HUH??
THAT HEADBAND.. NO USE MAKIN' A GRAB FOR IT, CREEP... YOU'LL NEVER MAKE IT NOW...
BUT NOTHIN'S STOPPIN' ME FROM TAKIN' IT MYSELF AN'...
CHOKE!
THOK!
... AND, AS FURY RIPS THE THIN CIRCLE OF METAL FROM THE ALIEN'S HEAD, HE GOES THROUGH AN UNBELIEVABLE MUTATION... SHRINKING, WRITHING, CHANGING, TWISTING, GROWING --- UNTIL HE EMERGES IN HIS TRUE FORM... AN UNDESCRIBABLE CREATURE FROM ANOTHER DIMENSION...

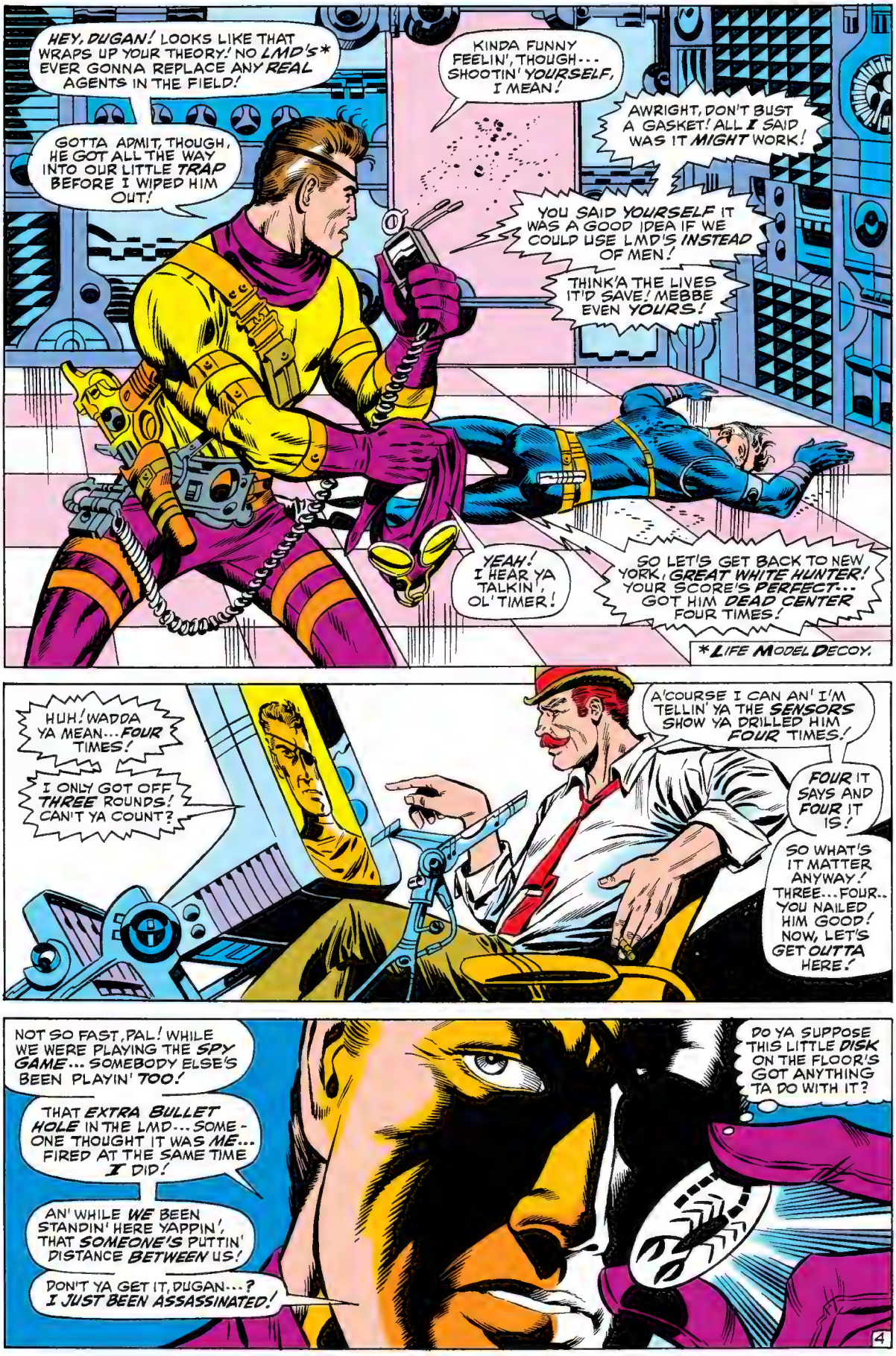

THE HEADBAND...IT TURNED HIM INTO A HUMAN! CAN IT TURN ME INTO AN ALIEN ---SOME KINDA MONSTER LIKE HIM---BUT BIGGER... AN' STRONGER...CAN IT?
THEN, A SPLIT MICRO-SECOND LATER, THE BEING THAT WAS ONCE COLONEL FURY IS GONE...AND IN HIS PLACE, A GIGANTIC FIGURE FAR BEYOND DESCRIPTION OF MERE HUMAN WORDS---A FIGURE THAT LASHES OUT IN A SAVAGE FRENZY, BEGINNING A SPINE-CHILLING DUEL OF UNEARTHLY GARGOYLE...
YOU ARE TOO LATE! EVEN IF YOU COULD HAVE DEFEATED ME, YOU'RE TOO LATE!
YOU SEE, THE PRISM OF MIRACLES IS A WORLD-KILLING MACHINE... AND THE PURPOSE OF MY RACE IS TO ELIMINATE ALL LIFE...EVERY-WHERE!
LISTEN! ALREADY GREEDY EARTHLINGS HAVE TURNED ON THE MACHINE AND BEGUN TO UPSET THE BALANCE OF YOUR UNIVERSE! IT IS ALL OVER! ALL OVER!

ONE WAY
DEAD END


IT'S ALL OVER.. IT'S ALL OVER
C'MON! WAKE UP, NICK! YOU'RE DREAMIN'! IT'S ALL OVER NOW!
NAW! IT..IT... HUH? DUGAN... IT'S YOU! HEY... IT'S REALLY YOU! WH--??
WADDAYA MEAN---DUGAN, IT'S REALLY YOU... MAYBE YOU WAS EXPECTING ALICE IN WONDERLAND TO DROP IN ON YA! 'COURSE IT'S ME!
HMMMM! NICK'S NEVER ACTED THIS WAY BEFORE-- LONG AS I'VE KNOWN HIM!
HEY! WHAT SAY WE GO A FEW ROUNDS IN THE GYM BEFORE YOU LEAVE, HUH?
HOW ABOUT IT, NICK? C'MON, GETCHA LOOSENED UP...HUH?
JUST A COUPLE, HUH?
MAN...WHAT A DREAM! MUST BE THESE NEW CIGARS I BEEN SMOKIN'!
HAVE A HEART, DUGAN! I'LL BE LUCKY IF I CAN MAKE IT HOME! GOTTA SACK OUT!
WELL...HAVE IT YOUR OWN WAY! OH YEAH...'FORE IT SLIPS MY MIND, VAL TOLD ME TO TELL YOU SOME KINDA UFO OR SOMETHING'S BEEN SPOTTED... PROBABLY NOTHIN,' THOUGH!
I TOL' 'EM YOU'D BE DOWN IN THE GYM! SURE YOU WON'T CHANGE YOUR MIND, HUH?
WADDA YA SAY, HUH?
C'MON!
11

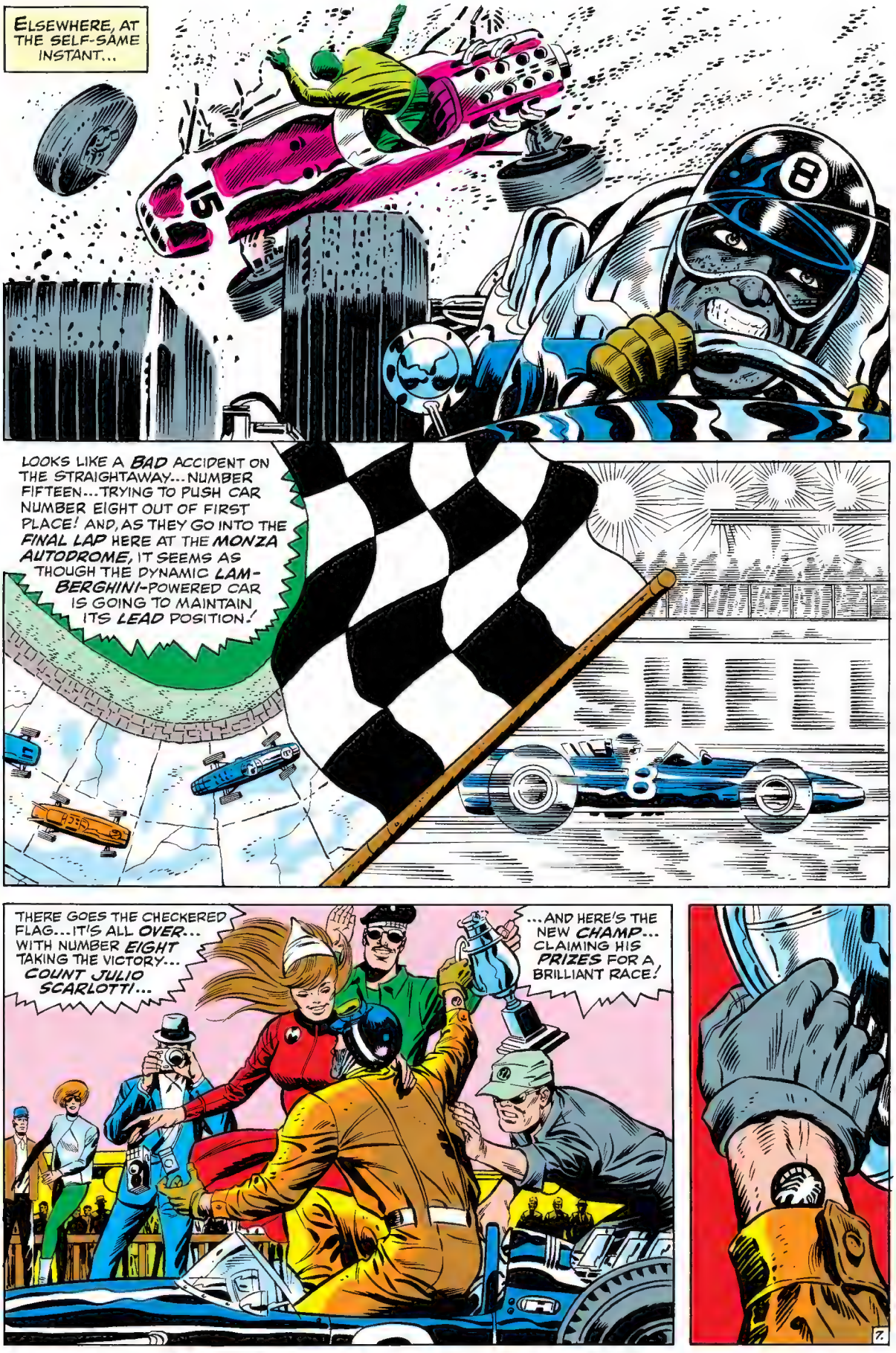
NICK FURY, AGENT OF...
S.H.I.E.L.D.
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
12¢ IND.
1 JUNE
MCG
STERANKO
WHO IS SCORPIO

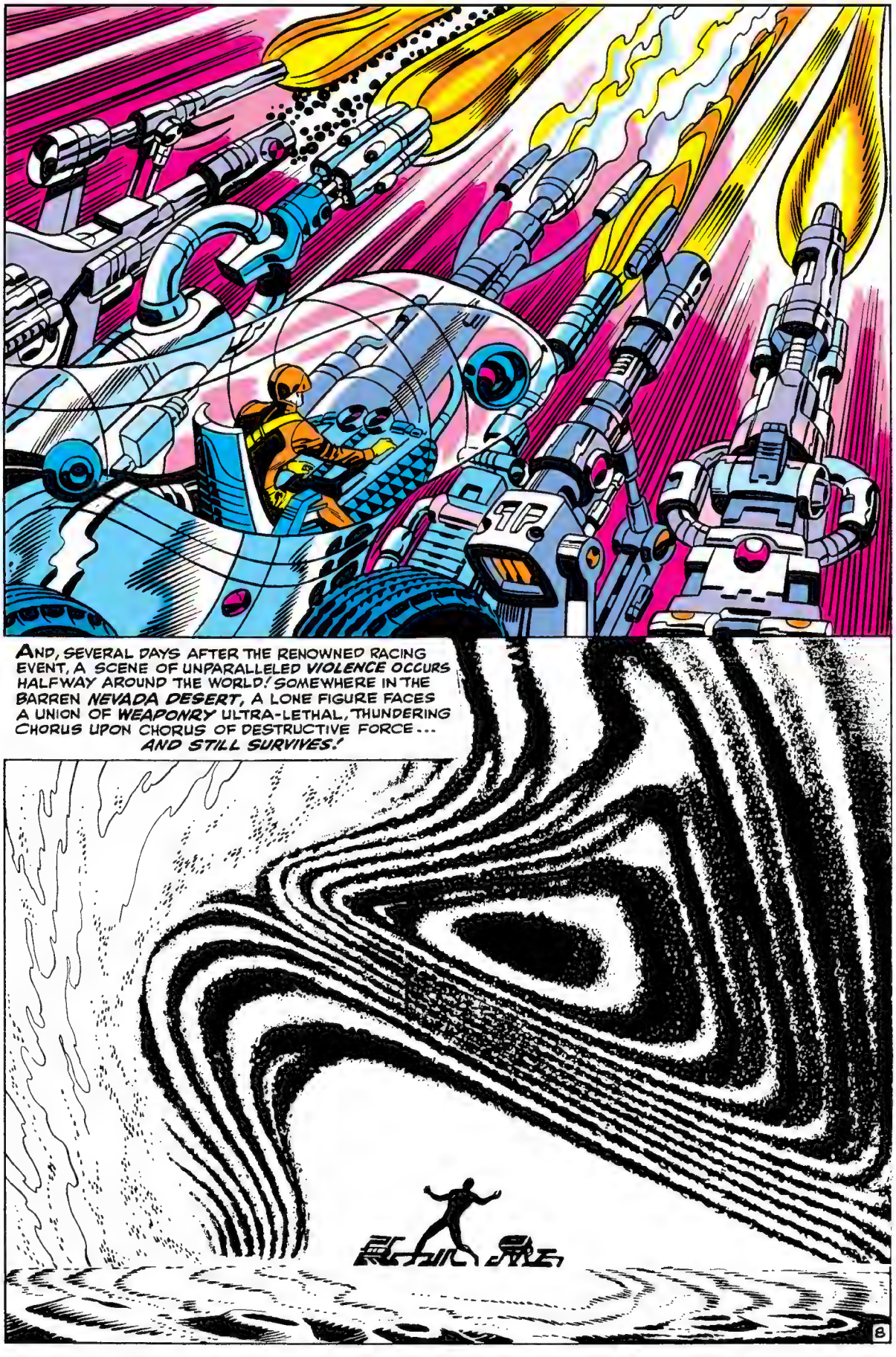
STAN LEE *EDITOR* • JIM STERANKO *WRITER AND ILLUSTRATOR* • JOE SINNOTT *INKER* • SAM ROSEN *LETTERER*
HAVE TEAMED UP TO PRESENT THE FIRST SHIELD NOVEL-LENGTH EPIC OF UNFORGETTABLE SUSPENSE AND DRAMA!

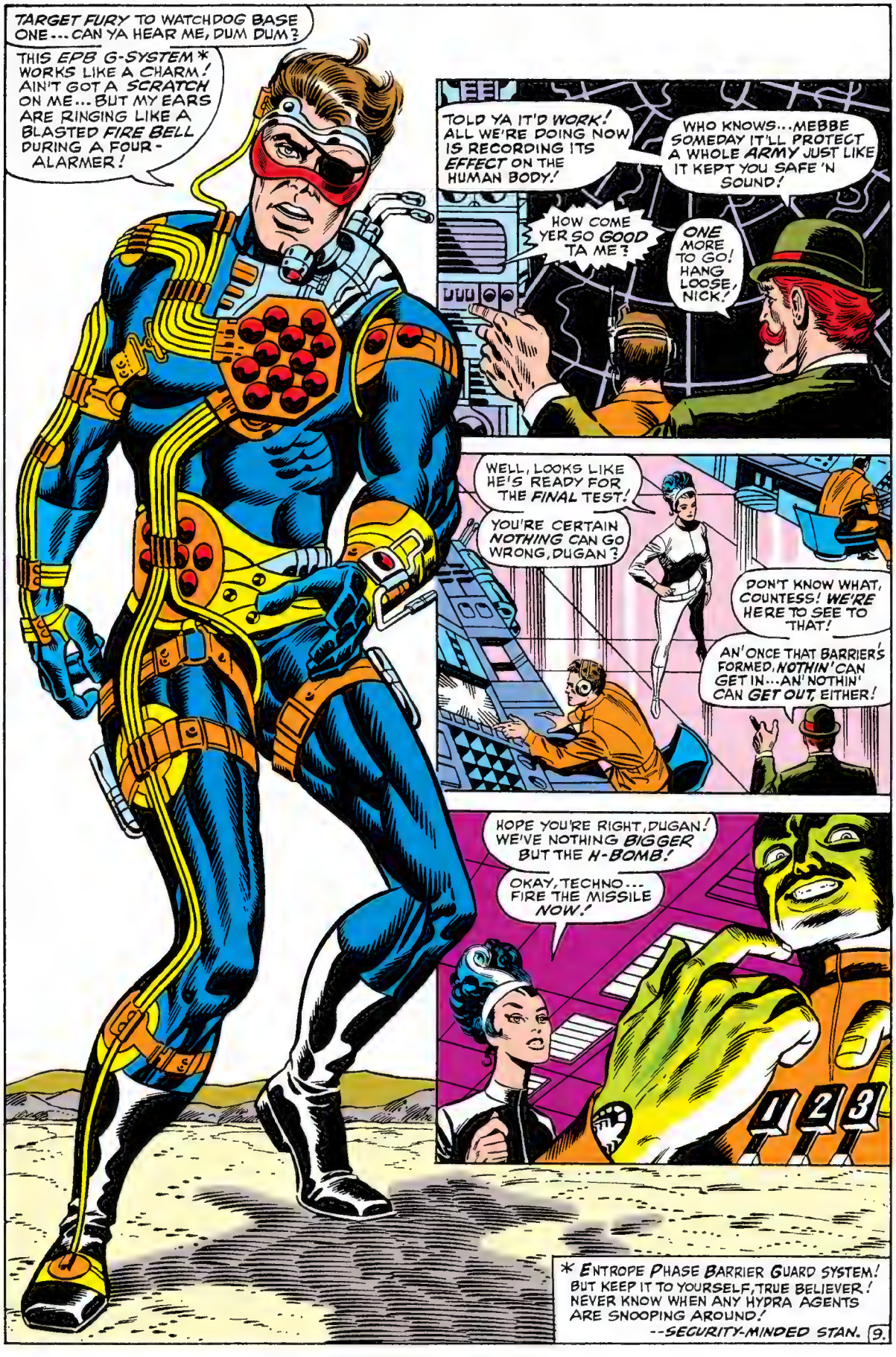

HEY, DUGAN! LOOKS LIKE THAT WRAPS UP YOUR THEORY! NO LMD'S* EVER GONNA REPLACE ANY REAL AGENTS IN THE FIELD!
GOTTA ADMIT, THOUGH, HE GOT ALL THE WAY INTO OUR LITTLE TRAP BEFORE I WIPED HIM OUT!
KINDA FUNNY FEELIN', THOUGH--- SHOOTIN' YOURSELF, I MEAN!
AWRIGHT, DON'T BUST A GASKET! ALL I SAID WAS IT MIGHT WORK!
YOU SAID YOURSELF IT WAS A GOOD IDEA IF WE COULD USE LMD'S INSTEAD OF MEN!
THINK'A THE LIVES IT'D SAVE! MEBBE EVEN YOURS!
YEAH! I HEAR YA TALKIN', OL' TIMER!
SO LET'S GET BACK TO NEW YORK, GREAT WHITE HUNTER! YOUR SCORE'S PERFECT... GOT HIM DEAD CENTER FOUR TIMES!
*LIFE MODEL DECOY.
HUH! WADDA YA MEAN... FOUR TIMES!
I ONLY GOT OFF THREE ROUNDS! CAN'T YA COUNT?
A'COURSE I CAN AN' I'M TELLIN' YA THE SENSORS SHOW YA DRILLED HIM FOUR TIMES!
FOUR IT SAYS AND FOUR IT IS!
SO WHAT'S IT MATTER ANYWAY! THREE... FOUR.. YOU NAILED HIM GOOD! NOW, LET'S GET OUTTA HERE!
NOT SO FAST, PAL! WHILE WE WERE PLAYING THE SPY GAME... SOMEBODY ELSE'S BEEN PLAYIN' TOO!
THAT EXTRA BULLET HOLE IN THE LMD... SOME-ONE THOUGHT IT WAS ME... FIRED AT THE SAME TIME I DID!
AN' WHILE WE BEEN STANDIN' HERE YAPPIN', THAT SOMEONE'S PUTTIN' DISTANCE BETWEEN US!
DON'T YA GET IT, DUGAN...? I JUST BEEN ASSASSINATED!
DO YA SUPPOSE THIS LITTLE DISK ON THE FLOOR'S GOT ANYTHING TA DO WITH IT?

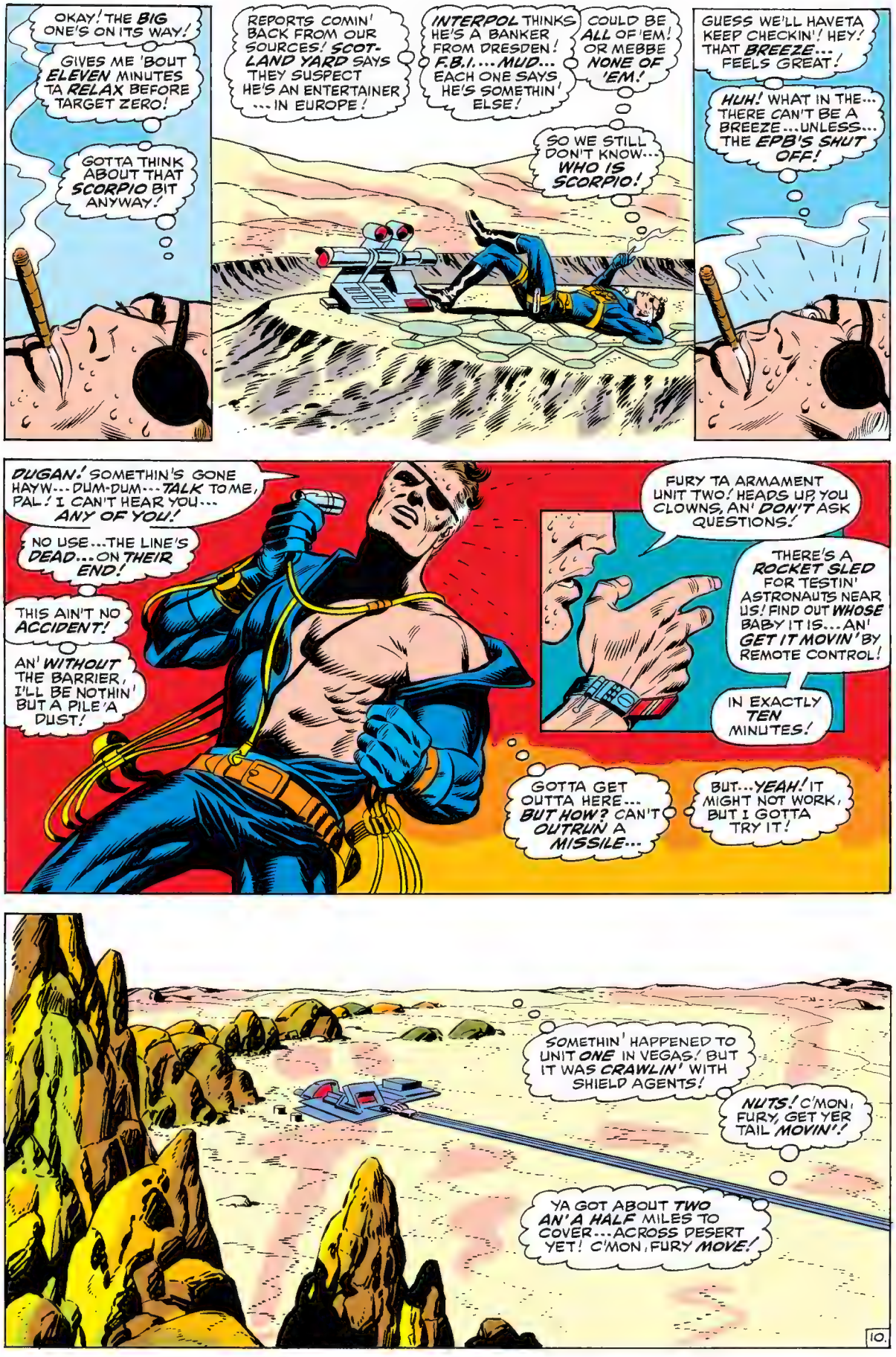
AND, AS FURY CONTEMPLATES THE SINISTER OBJECT, THE SCENE SHIFTS TO THE WEST COAST... A SEAMY NIGHT CLUB IN SAN FRANCISCO...
LOOKIT THAT, WILLYA! THEY'RE LAUGHIN' AT THE BUM OUTTA PITY!
HE SHOULD GET AS MANY LAUGHS AS HE LOSES CUSTOMERS!
I SHOULDA BOUNCED HIM LAST WEEK... TROUBLE WITH ME IS, I GOT TOO BIG A HEART!
YEAH, SURE, PINKY! THE GUY'S GOT PROBLEMS! JUST HAD HIS CAR FIXED... COST OVER TWO HUNDRED!
I THINK HE GAVE THEM A BAD CHECK!
SO WHO AIN'T GOT... UH-OH! SPEAK'A THE DEVIL! THE WAY HE WALKS...
HE'S GONNA ASK ME FOR SOMETHIN'... I CAN FEEL IT!
HEY! HOW' BOUT THAT CROWD, PINKY! TOUGH... REAL TOUGH!
LOOK... AH-- I HATE TO ASK YOU, BUT-- I-- I NEED ANOTHER ADVANCE ---SAY 'BOUT A COUPLA HUNDRED!
LISTEN, CREEP! YOU'RE INTO ME ALREADY FOR A BUNDLE!
NOW APPEARING
PINKY'S LOUNGE
Flip Mason
SENSATIONAL NEW COMIC
—plus—
GO-GO REVUE
GIRLS! GIRLS! GIRLS!
YA BEEN GAMBLIN' AGAIN, HUH? NOW YA CAN'T PAY UP, HUH--?
YOU'RE A LOSER, CREEP... ALWAYS BE A LOSER!
PLEASE, PINKY, PLEASE! THEY'LL GET ME...
AN' TONIGHT MIGHT BE THE NIGHT, FUNNY MAN! TWO GUYS IN THE BACK BEEN WATCHIN' YA ALL NIGHT! I WANT NO BEEFS IN MY PLACE... Y'HEAR?
ULP!! HACKETT'S GOONS... THEY'RE HERE! TOLD 'EM I'D GET THE CASH!
GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE! B-BUT... THEY'LL GET ME AT HOME... NO! MARGE AND LITTLE TIMMY! THEY... THEY COULDN'T... CHOKE!
MAYBE THEY'LL GIVE ME A BREAK! JUST THIS TIME... I'LL NEVER MAKE ANOTHER BET... AS LONG AS I LIVE!
5

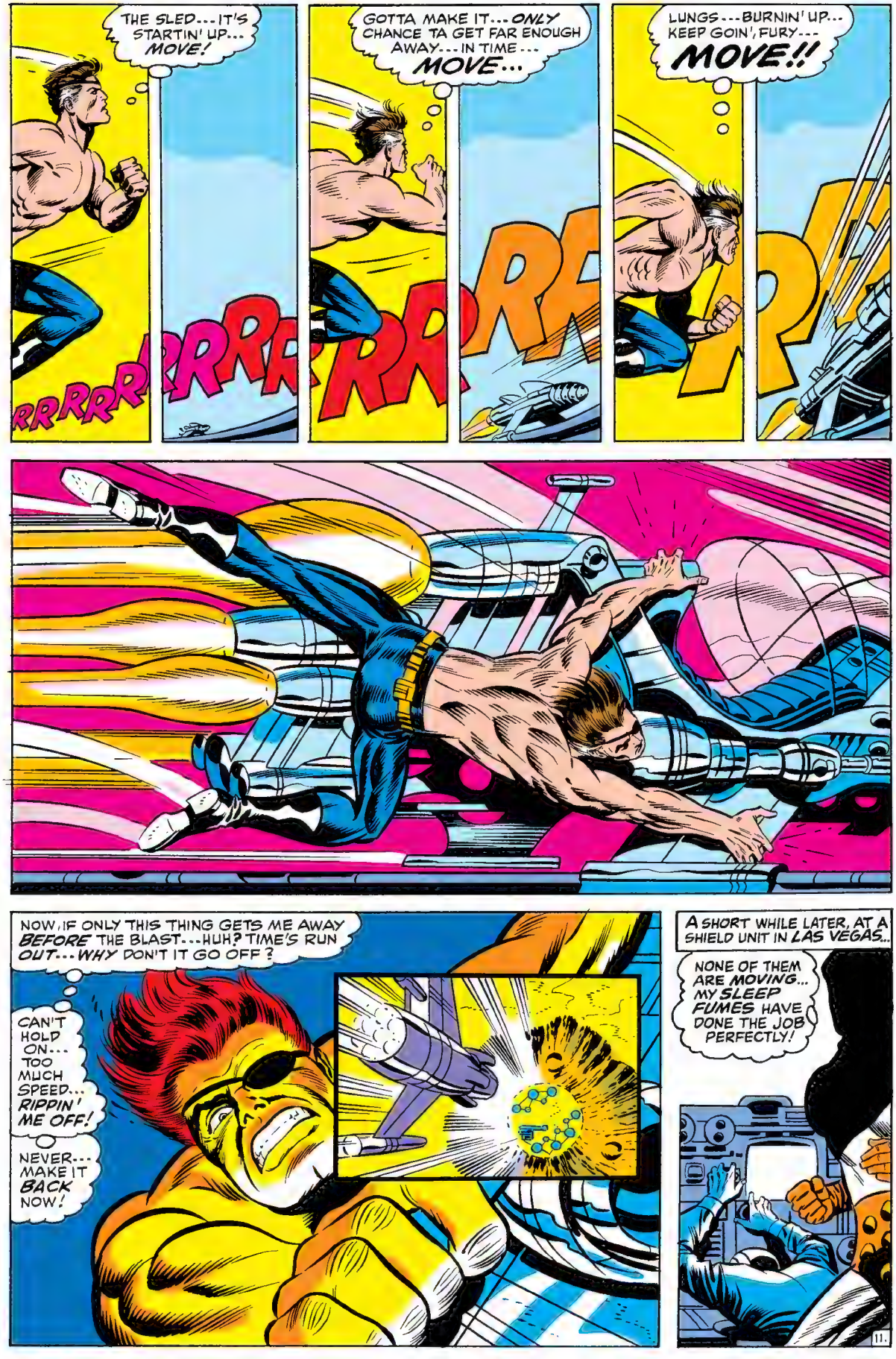
MEANWHILE, IN AN EXECUTIVE SUITE IN DOWNTOWN KANSAS CITY, YET ANOTHER DRAMA BEGINS TO UNFOLD...
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU, LESTER? PUT THE ROD AWAY!
YOU BEEN SEEING TOO MANY OLD BOGART MOVIES LATELY!
NO MORE SHOOTING FOR US! MITCH HACKETT IS GOING INTO THE BIG TIME!
SCHOOL IS OUT, RIGHT, BABY?
WHATEVER YOU SAY, MITCH!
WELL, THAT'S WHAT I SAY! THE GOOD TIMES ARE COMING! FIRST THING WE DO IS PICK UP A PACKAGE OF MONEY... IN VEGAS!
AND WHILE WE'RE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD, WE'LL CELEBRATE MY NEW POSITION WITH THE SYNDICATE! HUH, BABY?
OH, YEAH! YOU, TOO, LESTER!
YEAH! IT'LL BE A RELIEF TO PACK IN ALL THOSE NICKEL-AN'-DIME BETTORS!
SO STICK WITH HACKETT ... HE'S HEADING RIGHT TO THE TOP!
RIGHT, BABY?
RIGHT, MITCH!
HEY! WHAT'S WITH YOU?
OH, NOTHING, REALLY... JUST A FEELING!
I GUESS EVERYTHING'S GOING TO BE OKAY, NOW!
EXCEPT THE WEATHER! LOOKS LIKE IT'S STARTING TO...
AT THAT MOMENT, IN NEW YORK...
50TH
MADISON AVE.
ONE WAY
WAY
PUBLIC SHELTER
CAPACITY 300
...RAIN! THEY SAY IT MAKES YOU BEAUTIFUL, NICK!
THEN, YOU MUST HAVE BEEN BORN IN IT, VAL!
I SPENT HALF THE WAR IN IT! DIDN'T DO A THING FOR ME!
DID I TELL YA, WE'RE CHECKIN' OUT THAT GIZMO I FOUND? NOTHIN' BUT A ROUND CARD WITH THE SIGN OF SCORPIO ON IT!
SHIELD'S RUNNIN' IT THROUGH THE FBI AND INTERPOL NOW!
HEY! GOTTA GET BACK TO HQ AN' WRAP UP A COUPL'A LOOSE ENDS!
TOO BAD! A GIRL GETS LONESOME IN THE BIG CITY! CAREFUL IN THE CROSSTOWN TRAFFIC!
6


ELSEWHERE, AT THE SELF-SAME INSTANT...
15
8
LOOKS LIKE A BAD ACCIDENT ON THE STRAIGHTAWAY... NUMBER FIFTEEN... TRYING TO PUSH CAR NUMBER EIGHT OUT OF FIRST PLACE! AND, AS THEY GO INTO THE FINAL LAP HERE AT THE MONZA AUTODROME, IT SEEMS AS THOUGH THE DYNAMIC LAMBERGHINI-POWERED CAR IS GOING TO MAINTAIN ITS LEAD POSITION!
8
THERE GOES THE CHECKERED FLAG... IT'S ALL OVER... WITH NUMBER EIGHT TAKING THE VICTORY... COUNT JULIO SCARLOTTI...
...AND HERE'S THE NEW CHAMP... CLAIMING HIS PRIZES FOR A BRILLIANT RACE!
7

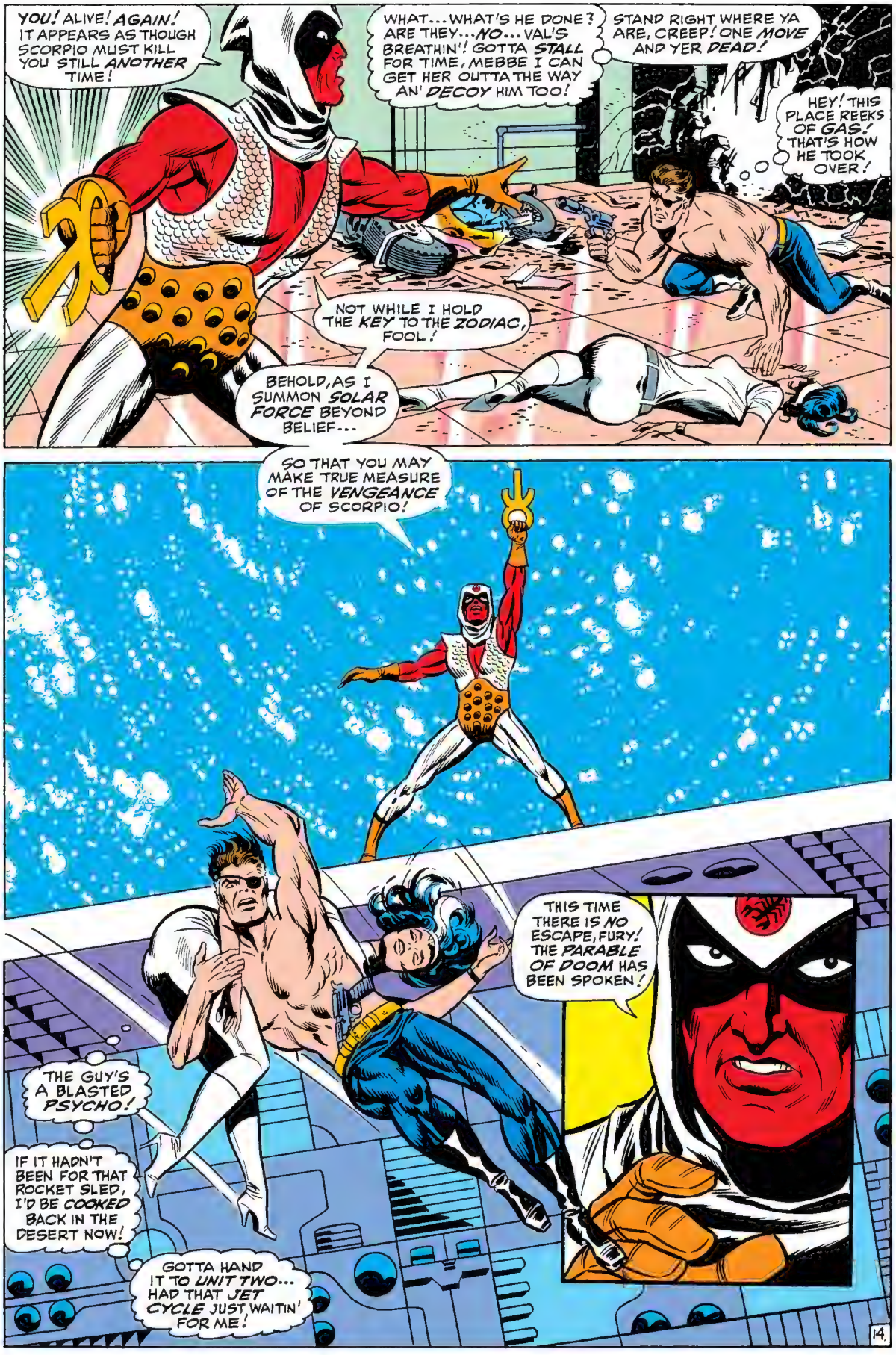

AND, SEVERAL DAYS AFTER THE RENOWNED RACING EVENT, A SCENE OF UNPARALLELED *VIOLENCE* OCCURS HALFWAY AROUND THE WORLD! SOMEWHERE IN THE BARREN *NEVADA DESERT*, A LONE FIGURE FACES A UNION OF *WEAPONRY* ULTRA-LETHAL, THUNDERING CHORUS UPON CHORUS OF DESTRUCTIVE FORCE... *AND STILL SURVIVES!*


TARGET FURY TO WATCHDOG BASE ONE... CAN YA HEAR ME, DUM DUM?
THIS EPB G-SYSTEM* WORKS LIKE A CHARM! AIN'T GOT A SCRATCH ON ME... BUT MY EARS ARE RINGING LIKE A BLASTED FIRE BELL DURING A FOUR-ALARMER!
TOLD YA IT'D WORK! ALL WE'RE DOING NOW IS RECORDING ITS EFFECT ON THE HUMAN BODY!
WHO KNOWS... MEBBE SOMEDAY IT'LL PROTECT A WHOLE ARMY JUST LIKE IT KEPT YOU SAFE 'N SOUND!
HOW COME YER SO GOOD TA ME?
ONE MORE TO GO! HANG LOOSE, NICK!
WELL, LOOKS LIKE HE'S READY FOR THE FINAL TEST!
YOU'RE CERTAIN NOTHING CAN GO WRONG, DUGAN?
DON'T KNOW WHAT, COUNTESS! WE'RE HERE TO SEE TO THAT!
AN' ONCE THAT BARRIER'S FORMED, NOTHIN' CAN GET IN... AN' NOTHIN' CAN GET OUT, EITHER!
HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT, DUGAN! WE'VE NOTHING BIGGER BUT THE H-BOMB!
OKAY, TECHNO... FIRE THE MISSILE NOW!
1
2
3
* ENTROPE PHASE BARRIER GUARD SYSTEM! BUT KEEP IT TO YOURSELF, TRUE BELIEVER! NEVER KNOW WHEN ANY HYDRA AGENTS ARE SNOOPING AROUND!
--SECURITY-MINDED STAN.


OKAY! THE BIG ONE'S ON ITS WAY!
GIVES ME 'BOUT ELEVEN MINUTES TA RELAX BEFORE TARGET ZERO!
GOTTA THINK ABOUT THAT SCORPIO BIT ANYWAY!
REPORTS COMIN' BACK FROM OUR SOURCES! SCOTLAND YARD SAYS THEY SUSPECT HE'S AN ENTERTAINER ...IN EUROPE!
INTERPOL THINKS HE'S A BANKER FROM DRESDEN! F.B.I. ...MUD... EACH ONE SAYS, HE'S SOMETHIN' ELSE!
COULD BE ALL OF 'EM! OR MEBBE NONE OF 'EM!
SO WE STILL DON'T KNOW... WHO IS SCORPIO!
GUESS WE'LL HAVETA KEEP CHECKIN'! HEY! THAT BREEZE... FEELS GREAT!
HUH! WHAT IN THE... THERE CAN'T BE A BREEZE...UNLESS... THE EPB'S SHUT OFF!
DUGAN! SOMETHIN'S GONE HAYW...DUM-DUM...TALK TO ME, PAL! I CAN'T HEAR YOU... ANY OF YOU!
NO USE...THE LINE'S DEAD...ON THEIR END!
THIS AIN'T NO ACCIDENT!
AN' WITHOUT THE BARRIER, I'LL BE NOTHIN' BUT A PILE 'A DUST!
FURY TA ARMAMENT UNIT TWO! HEADS UP, YOU CLOWNS, AN' DON'T ASK QUESTIONS!
THERE'S A ROCKET SLED FOR TESTIN' ASTRONAUTS NEAR US! FIND OUT WHOSE BABY IT IS...AN' GET IT MOVIN' BY REMOTE CONTROL!
IN EXACTLY TEN MINUTES!
GOTTA GET OUTTA HERE... BUT HOW? CAN'T OUTRUN A MISSILE...
BUT...YEAH! IT MIGHT NOT WORK, BUT I GOTTA TRY IT!
SOMETHIN' HAPPENED TO UNIT ONE IN VEGAS, BUT IT WAS CRAWLIN' WITH SHIELD AGENTS!
NUTS! C'MON, FURY, GET YER TAIL MOVIN'!
YA GOT ABOUT TWO AN' A HALF MILES TO COVER...ACROSS DESERT YET! C'MON, FURY MOVE!


THE SLED... IT'S STARTIN' UP... MOVE!
RRRRRR
GOTTA MAKE IT... ONLY CHANCE TA GET FAR ENOUGH AWAY... IN TIME... MOVE...
RRR
LUNGS... BURNIN' UP... KEEP GOIN', FURY... MOVE!!
R
NOW, IF ONLY THIS THING GETS ME AWAY BEFORE THE BLAST... HUH? TIME'S RUN OUT... WHY DON'T IT GO OFF?
CAN'T HOLD ON... TOO MUCH SPEED... RIPPIN' ME OFF!
NEVER... MAKE IT BACK NOW!
A SHORT WHILE LATER, AT A SHIELD UNIT IN LAS VEGAS...
NONE OF THEM ARE MOVING... MY SLEEP FUMES HAVE DONE THE JOB PERFECTLY!

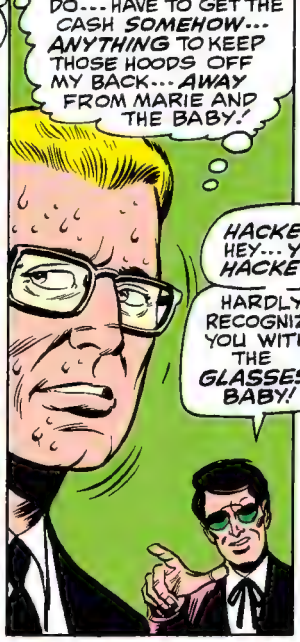
SUDDENLY, A NERVE-SHATTERING CRASH TEARS INTO THE DEADLY SILENCE...AND THRU THE VERY *WALL* OF THE ROOM ITSELF! MAKING HIS *ENTRANCE* AS ONLY THE SHIELD RAMROD CAN...THE INDESTRUCTIBLE NICK FURY APPEARS LIKE A *HUMAN CYCLONE* TO FACE A NEW FOE... THE MAN KNOWN ONLY AS... *SCORPIO!*


YOU! ALIVE! AGAIN! IT APPEARS AS THOUGH SCORPIO MUST KILL YOU STILL ANOTHER TIME!
WHAT... WHAT'S HE DONE? ARE THEY... NO... VAL'S BREATHIN'! GOTTA STALL FOR TIME, MEBBE I CAN GET HER OUTTA THE WAY AN' DECOY HIM TOO!
STAND RIGHT WHERE YA ARE, CREEP! ONE MOVE AND YER DEAD!
HEY! THIS PLACE REEKS OF GAS! THAT'S HOW HE TOOK OVER!
NOT WHILE I HOLD THE KEY TO THE ZODIAC, FOOL!
BEHOLD, AS I SUMMON SOLAR FORCE BEYOND BELIEF...
SO THAT YOU MAY MAKE TRUE MEASURE OF THE VENGEANCE OF SCORPIO!
THIS TIME THERE IS NO ESCAPE, FURY! THE PARABLE OF DOOM HAS BEEN SPOKEN!
THE GUY'S A BLASTED PSYCHO!
IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR THAT ROCKET SLED, I'D BE COOKED BACK IN THE DESERT NOW!
GOTTA HAND IT TO UNIT TWO... HAD THAT JET CYCLE JUST WAITIN' FOR ME!

MEANWHILE, IN A NEARBY PALACE OF CHANCE, *LADY LUCK* BEGINS TO DEAL THE *FINAL HAND* OF THE GAME...

HERE GOES MY *LAST* CHIP...ON NINETEEN RED!...WELL, *THAT* WAS IT...I'M COMPLETELY *WIPED OUT*...BUSTED! NO OTHER CHOICE NOW... MUST GO THROUGH WITH MY *PLAN*...

...TO STICK-UP A *TELLER!* COULDN'T EVEN GET A *REAL* GUN...JUST A LOUSY *FAKE*, BUT IT'LL DO... HAVE TO GET THE CASH *SOMEHOW*... *ANYTHING* TO KEEP THOSE HOODS OFF MY BACK... *AWAY* FROM MARIE AND THE BABY!




HERE...THIS IS *IT*, HACKETT! TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND, NICE N' NEAT!

TAKE IT AND *SPLIT*, MAN! LIKE WE SHOULDN'T BE SEEN TOGETHER... AN' *NO QUESTIONS*, HUH?

AND MOMENTS LATER, COMIC FLIP MASON LEAVES, *ALMOST* BRUSHING SHOULDERS WITH THE MAN HE *FEARS* MOST IN THE WORLD...A MAN WHO DOESN'T EVEN KNOW HE EXISTS...*YET*...

I *MUST* BE DREAMING! HE'S MISTAKEN ME FOR *SOME-ONE ELSE!*

ALL MY PROBLEMS ANSWERED! THIS MUST BE MY *LUCKY DAY!*



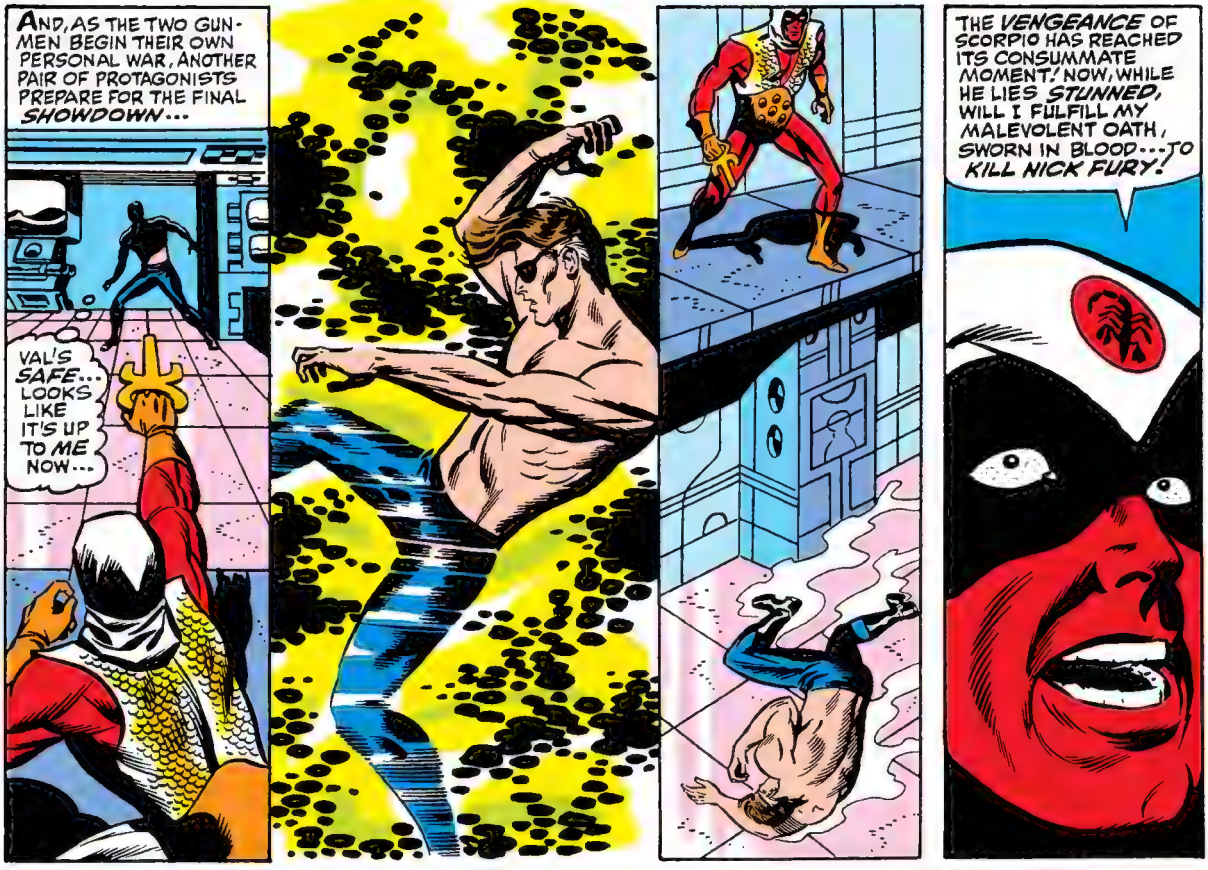

'SCUSE ME, FELLA! MY NAME'S *HACKETT*...MITCH HACKETT! YOU THE GUY I'M SUPPOSED TO SEE ABOUT THE *PICK-UP*?

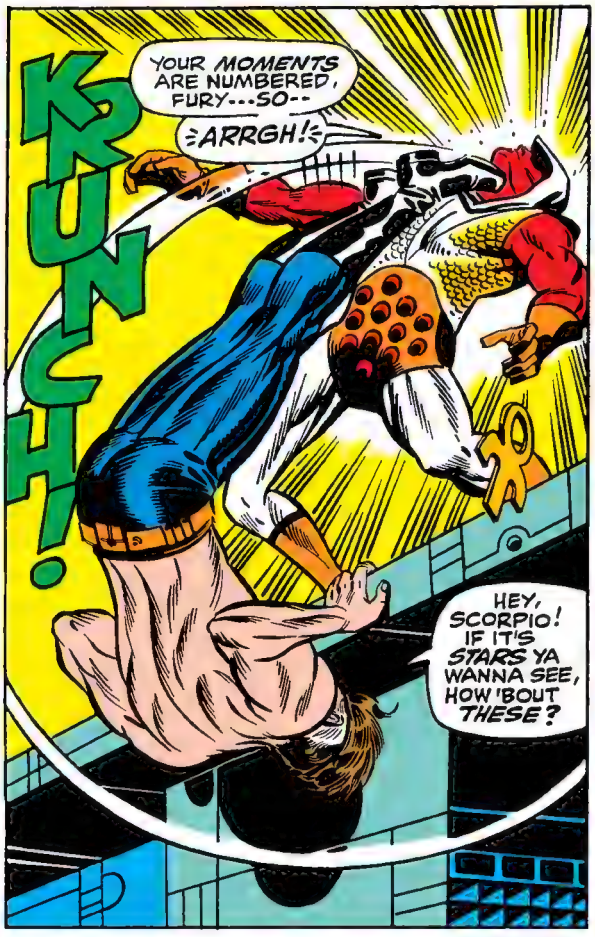
WHAT'RE *YOU* TRYING TO PULL, CRUSOE... SOME KINDA *DOUBLE-CROSS*?

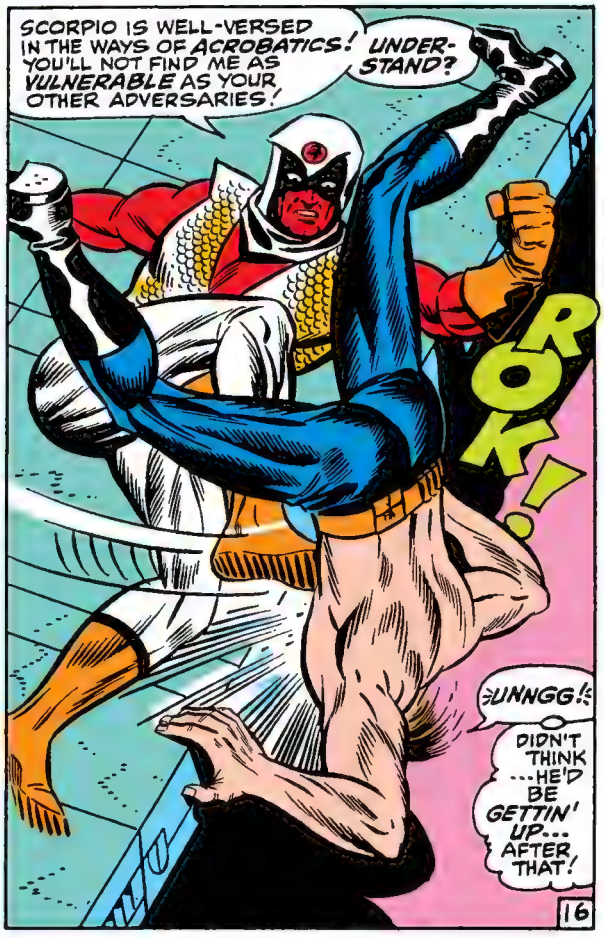
YOU SUPPOSED TO BE A WISE-GUY? I JUST GAVE IT TO YOU *TWO MINUTES* AGO!

WHAT'S HE DOIN' *BACK*? COULD HE HAVE SEEN THAT *BOMB RIG* INSIDE?

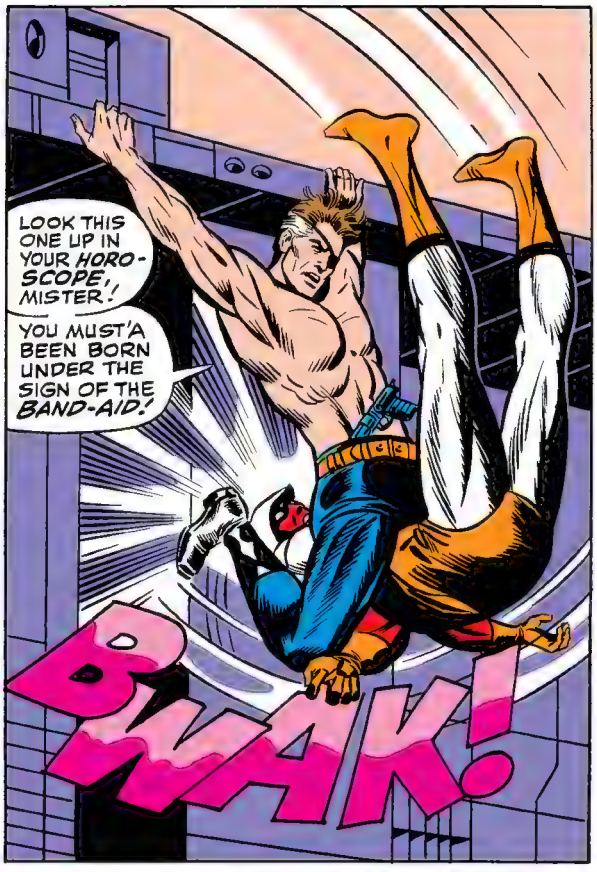
LOOKS LIKE *I'M* GOING TO HAVE TO TEACH YOU A *LESSON*, PUNK!


AND, AS THE TWO GUNMEN BEGIN THEIR OWN PERSONAL WAR, ANOTHER PAIR OF PROTAGONISTS PREPARE FOR THE FINAL SHOWDOWN...
VAL'S SAFE... LOOKS LIKE IT'S UP TO ME NOW...
THE VENGEANCE OF SCORPIO HAS REACHED ITS CONSUMMATE MOMENT! NOW, WHILE HE LIES STUNNED, WILL I FULFILL MY MALEVOLENT OATH, SWORN IN BLOOD---TO KILL NICK FURY!

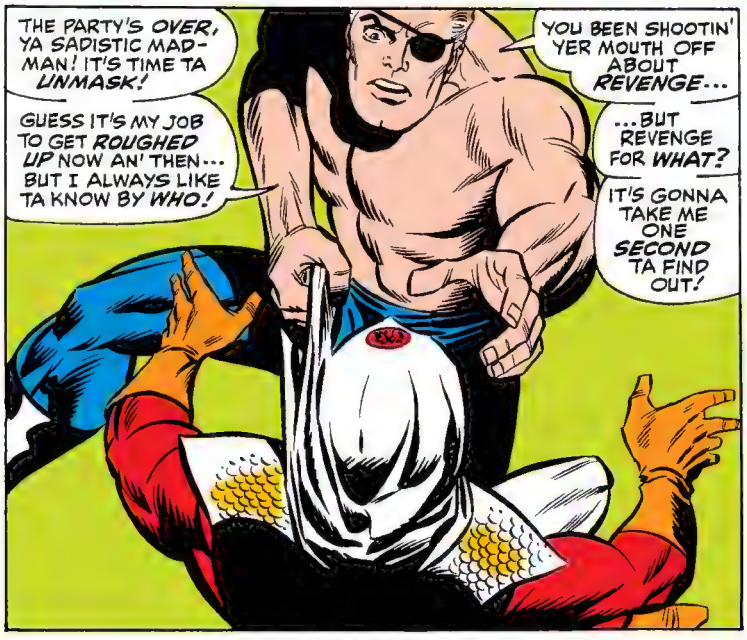

KRUNCH!
YOUR MOMENTS ARE NUMBERED, FURY---SO--
ARRGH!
HEY, SCORPIO! IF IT'S STARS YA WANNA SEE, HOW 'BOUT THESE?


SCORPIO IS WELL-VERSED IN THE WAYS OF ACROBATICS! YOU'LL NOT FIND ME AS VULNERABLE AS YOUR OTHER ADVERSARIES! UNDERSTAND?
ROK!
UNNGG!
DIDN'T THINK ---HE'D BE GETTIN' UP... AFTER THAT!

THAT DID IT...HE'S BUCKLING LIKE A STRAW IN THE WIND! W-WHA...?
HE'S SWINGING BACK ...PINNING MY ARMS LIKE A VISE!
I THOUGHT HE WAS FINISHED!

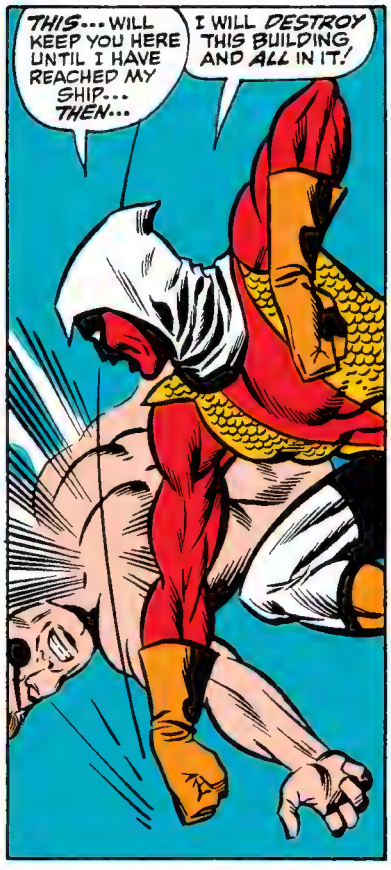


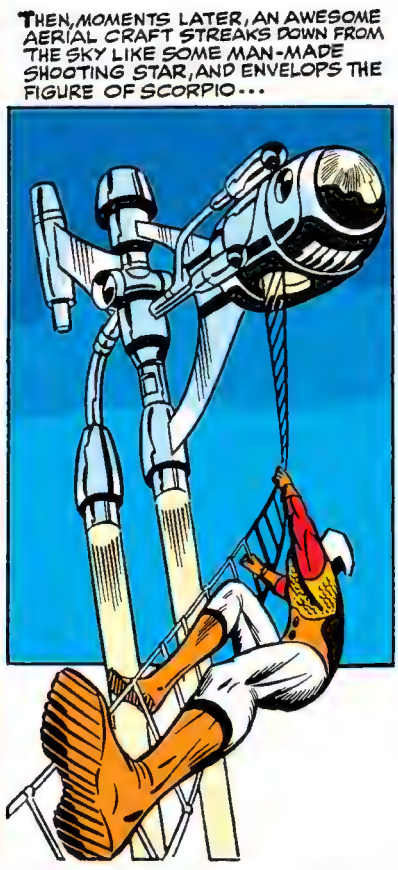
MEANWHILE, THE SIMPLE CASE OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY HAS FLARED INTO A RUNNING GUN-FIGHT...NOW IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO ANOTHER BATTLE FOR LIFE OR DEATH...
U.S. GOVERNMENT RESEARCH CENTER ...LAS VEGAS...

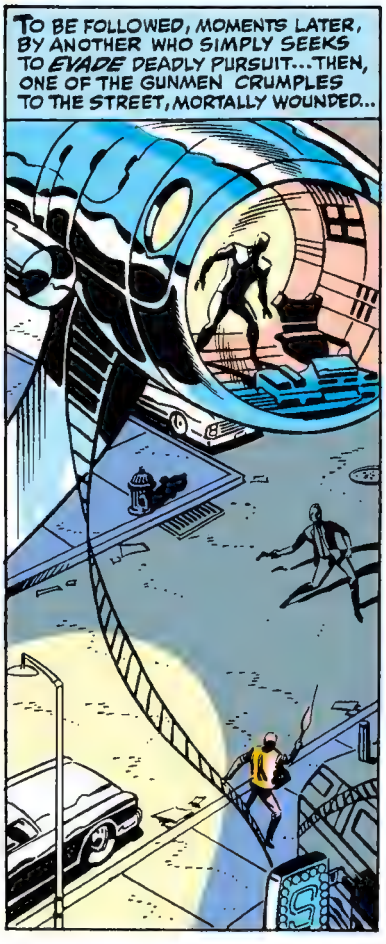

THE PARTY'S OVER, YA SADISTIC MAD-MAN! IT'S TIME TA UNMASK!
GUESS IT'S MY JOB TO GET ROUGHED UP NOW AN' THEN... BUT I ALWAYS LIKE TA KNOW BY WHO!
YOU BEEN SHOOTIN' YER MOUTH OFF ABOUT REVENGE...
...BUT REVENGE FOR WHAT?
IT'S GONNA TAKE ME ONE SECOND TA FIND OUT!

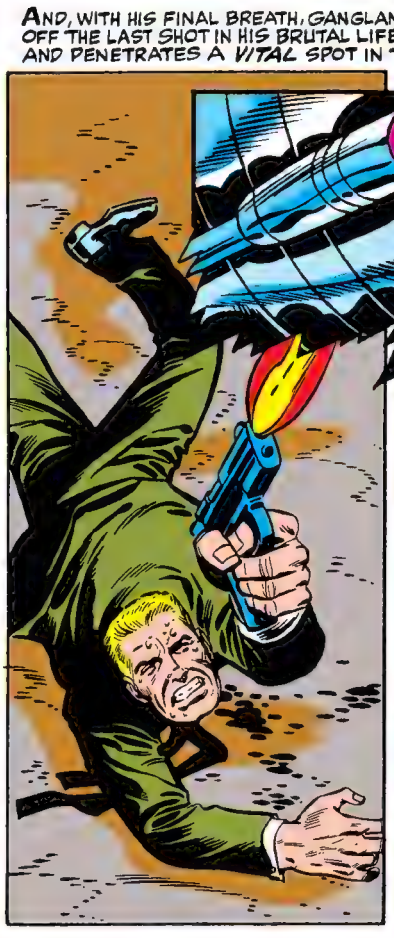
THEN, AS THOUGH DESTINY WERE CONTROLLED BY THE HAND OF SCORPIO HIMSELF, A STRAY BULLET HITS FURY A SPLIT SECOND BEFORE HE CAN REMOVE THE FIGURES PROTECTIVE COWL...

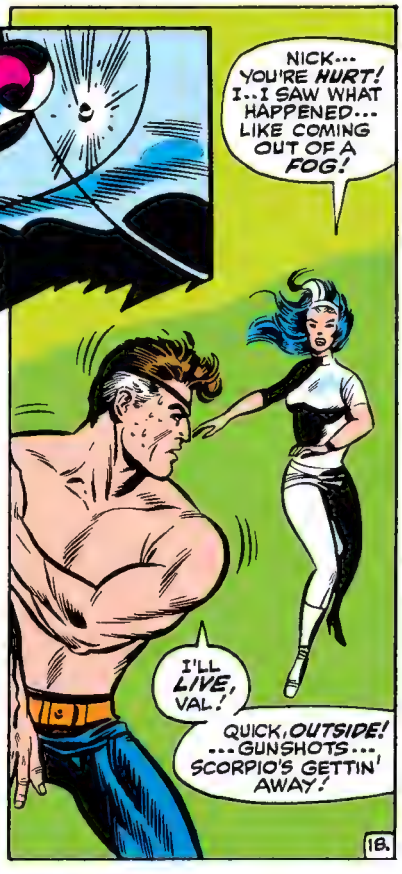
OBSERVE, FOOL! THE BATTLE IS NOT YET LOST! THE STARS HAVE NOT LIED! THEY PREDICTED YOU'D BE AT MY MERCY THIS VERY DAY!
STILL, THOSE GUNSHOTS... EACH INSTANT I REMAIN MAKES MY GETAWAY THAT MUCH MORE DIFFICULT!

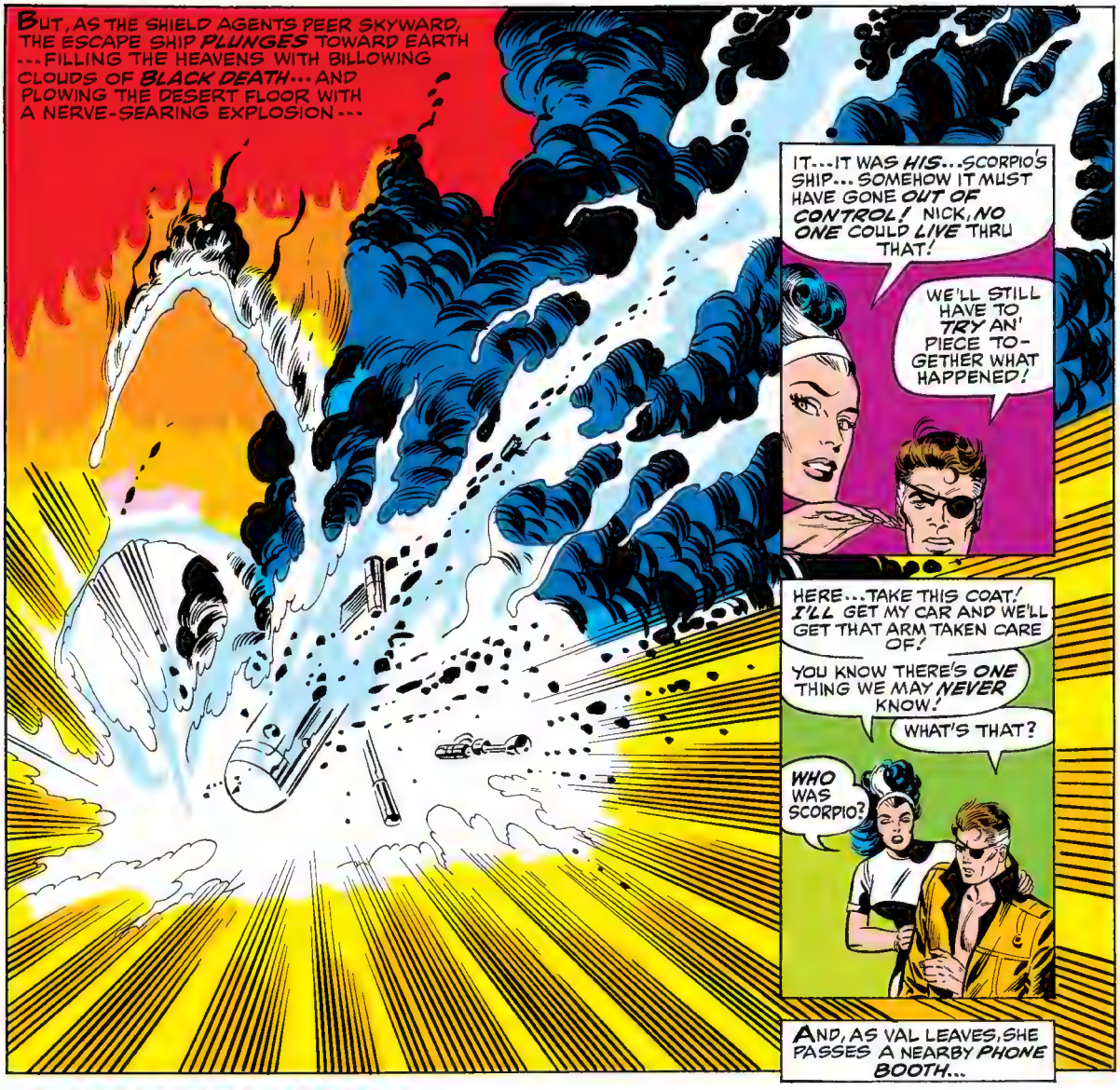

THIS... WILL KEEP YOU HERE UNTIL I HAVE REACHED MY SHIP... THEN...
I WILL DESTROY THIS BUILDING AND ALL IN IT!


THEN, MOMENTS LATER, AN AWESOME AERIAL CRAFT STREAKS DOWN FROM THE SKY LIKE SOME MAN-MADE SHOOTING STAR, AND ENVELOPS THE FIGURE OF SCORPIO...


TO BE FOLLOWED, MOMENTS LATER, BY ANOTHER WHO SIMPLY SEEKS TO EVADE DEADLY PURSUIT... THEN, ONE OF THE GUNMEN CRUMPLES TO THE STREET, MORTALLY WOUNDED...


AND, WITH HIS FINAL BREATH, GANGLAND KILLER MITCH HACKETT SQUEEZES OFF THE LAST SHOT IN HIS BRUTAL LIFETIME OF CRIME... A SHOT WHICH HITS AND PENETRATES A VITAL SPOT IN THE AIRCRAFT'S ENGINES...


NICK... YOU'RE HURT! I..I SAW WHAT HAPPENED... LIKE COMING OUT OF A FOG!
I'LL LIVE, VAL!
QUICK, OUTSIDE! ...GUNSHOTS... SCORPIO'S GETTIN' AWAY!


BUT, AS THE SHIELD AGENTS PEER SKYWARD, THE ESCAPE SHIP PLUNGES TOWARD EARTH ---FILLING THE HEAVENS WITH BILLOWING CLOUDS OF BLACK DEATH--- AND PLOWING THE DESERT FLOOR WITH A NERVE-SEARING EXPLOSION---
IT---IT WAS HIS...SCORPIO'S SHIP... SOMEHOW IT MUST HAVE GONE OUT OF CONTROL! NICK, NO ONE COULD LIVE THRU THAT!
WE'LL STILL HAVE TO TRY AN' PIECE TOGETHER WHAT HAPPENED!
HERE...TAKE THIS COAT! I'LL GET MY CAR AND WE'LL GET THAT ARM TAKEN CARE OF!
YOU KNOW THERE'S ONE THING WE MAY NEVER KNOW!
WHAT'S THAT?
WHO WAS SCORPIO?
AND, AS VAL LEAVES, SHE PASSES A NEARBY PHONE BOOTH...

TELEPHONE
IMAGINE! TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND! WHO AM I TO ARGUE WITH THE MAN!
MAYBE I'LL BUY PINKY'S AND PUT THAT SWEATY PIG TO WORK SWEEPIN' FLOORS!
LONG DISTANCE OPERATOR... I'M CALLING SAN FRANCISCO!
WAIT'LL I TELL MARGIE I STRUCK IT RICH IN VEGAS! I CAN SEE IT ALL NOW!
AN' CAN I HAVE A TRICYCLE, MOMMY?
SURE, BUTTON! A BIG RED ONE, JUST LIKE DADDY PROMISED!
DADDY COME HOME?
YES, TIMMY! DADDY WILL BE HOME SOON! HOME TO STAY!

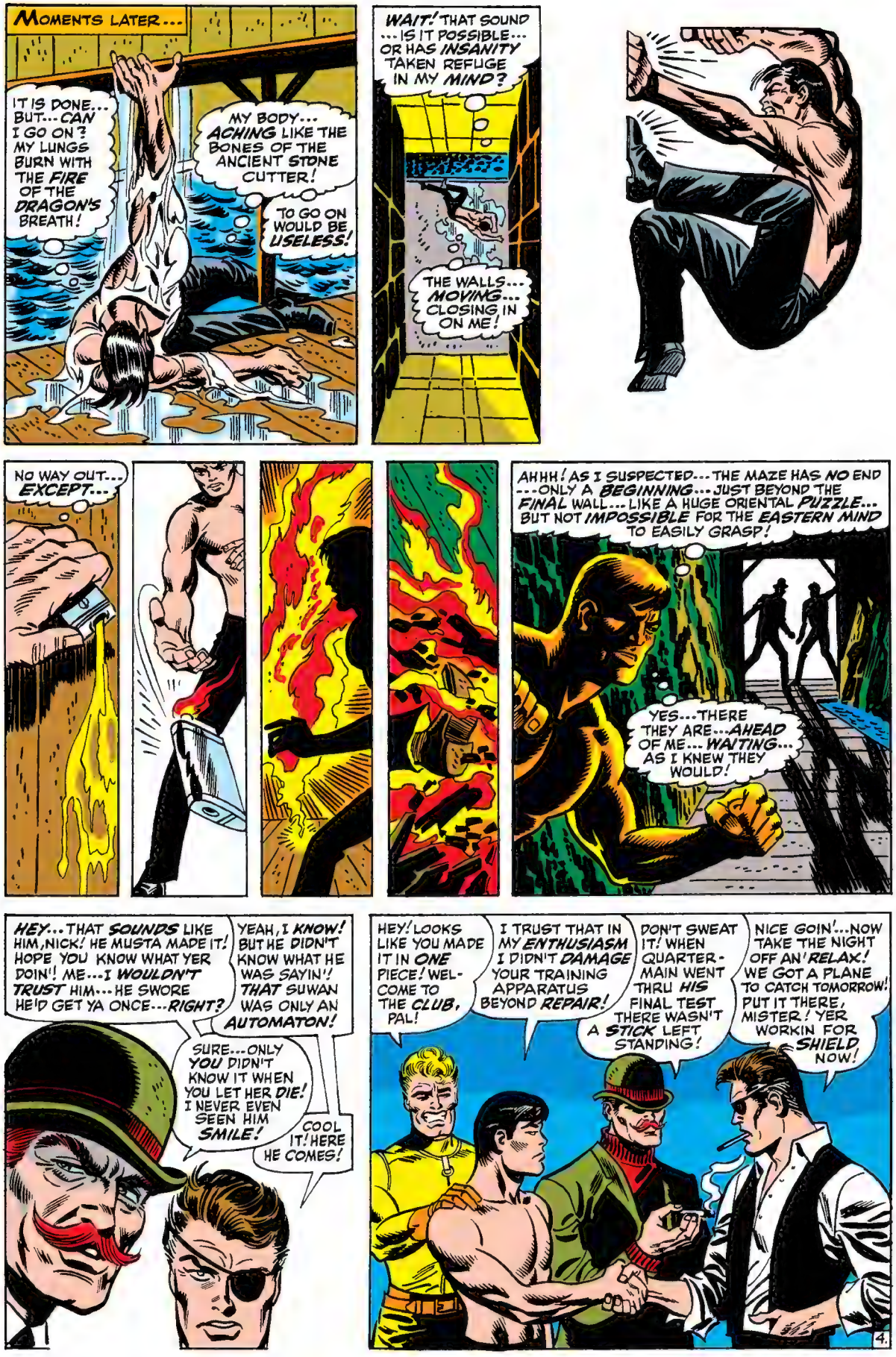
BKAROOOMM!
TELEPHONE
TELEPH
WHA---ANOTHER EXPLOSION! JUST AROUND THE CORNER! COULDN'T BE...? NAW!
NOBODY'D GET OUTTA THAT CRASH ALIVE!
HE---HE WAS JUST STANDING THERE... AND ALL OF A SUDDEN... BOOM! COULDN'T TELL WHAT HAPPENED!
SOME GUYS IS JUST BORN UNLUCKY!
Y'KNOW WHAT THEY SAY... THE GOOD DIE YOUNG!
POOR MAN! SOMEONE CALL THE POLICE!
YEAH! I'LL DO IT! STARTING TO RAIN AGAIN, ANYWAY!
YES, FUNNYMAN FLIP MASON FINALLY PAID HIS DUES---ALL, THAT IS, EXCEPT...
ANOTHER FIFTY CENTS... DEPOSIT FIFTY CENTS MORE, PLEASE!
CASINO
GAMES
---AND IT RAINED MOST OF THAT DAY--- AND FAR INTO THE NIGHT!

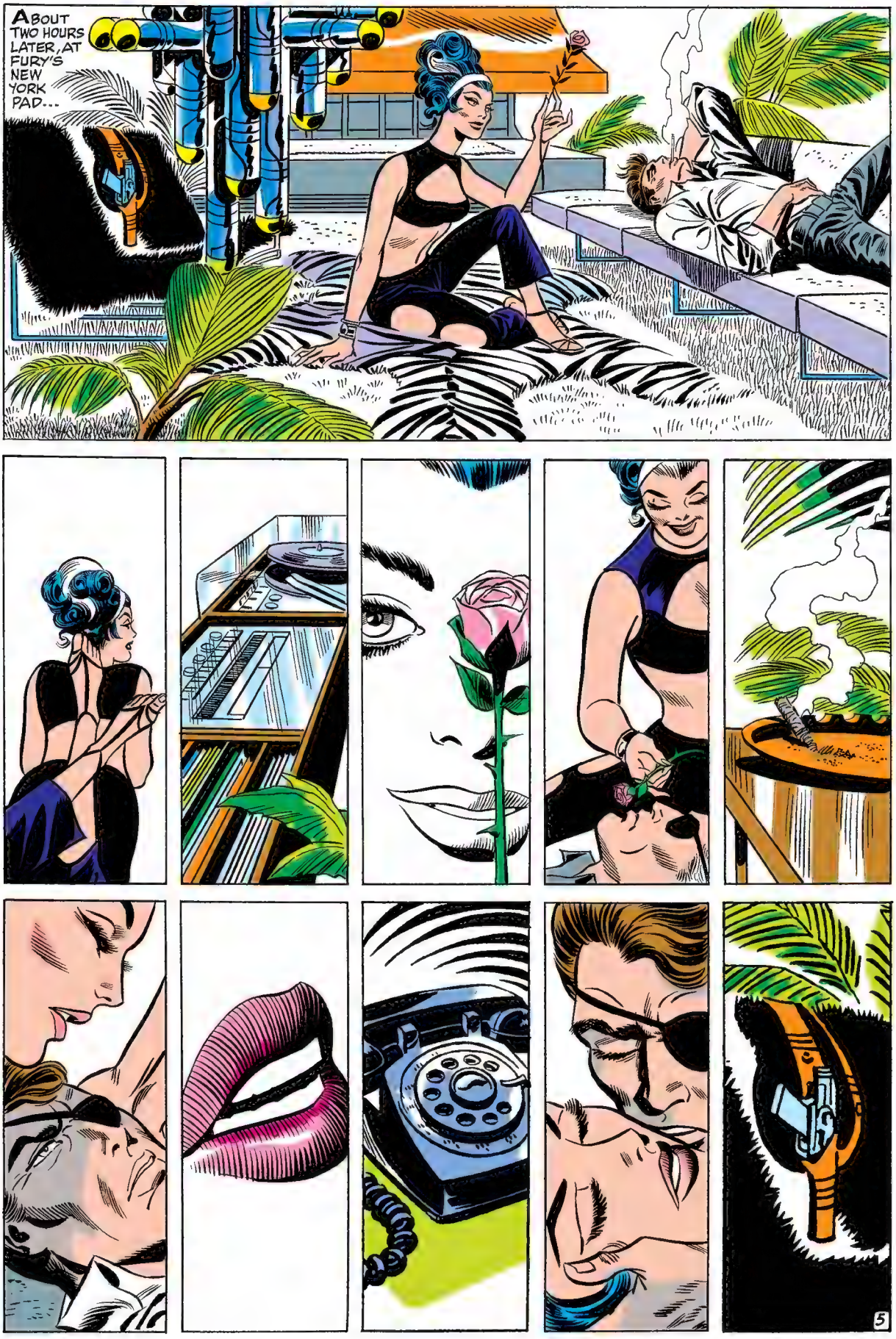
NICK FURY, AGENT OF...
S.H.I.E.L.D.
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
12¢ IND.
2 JULY
STERANKO

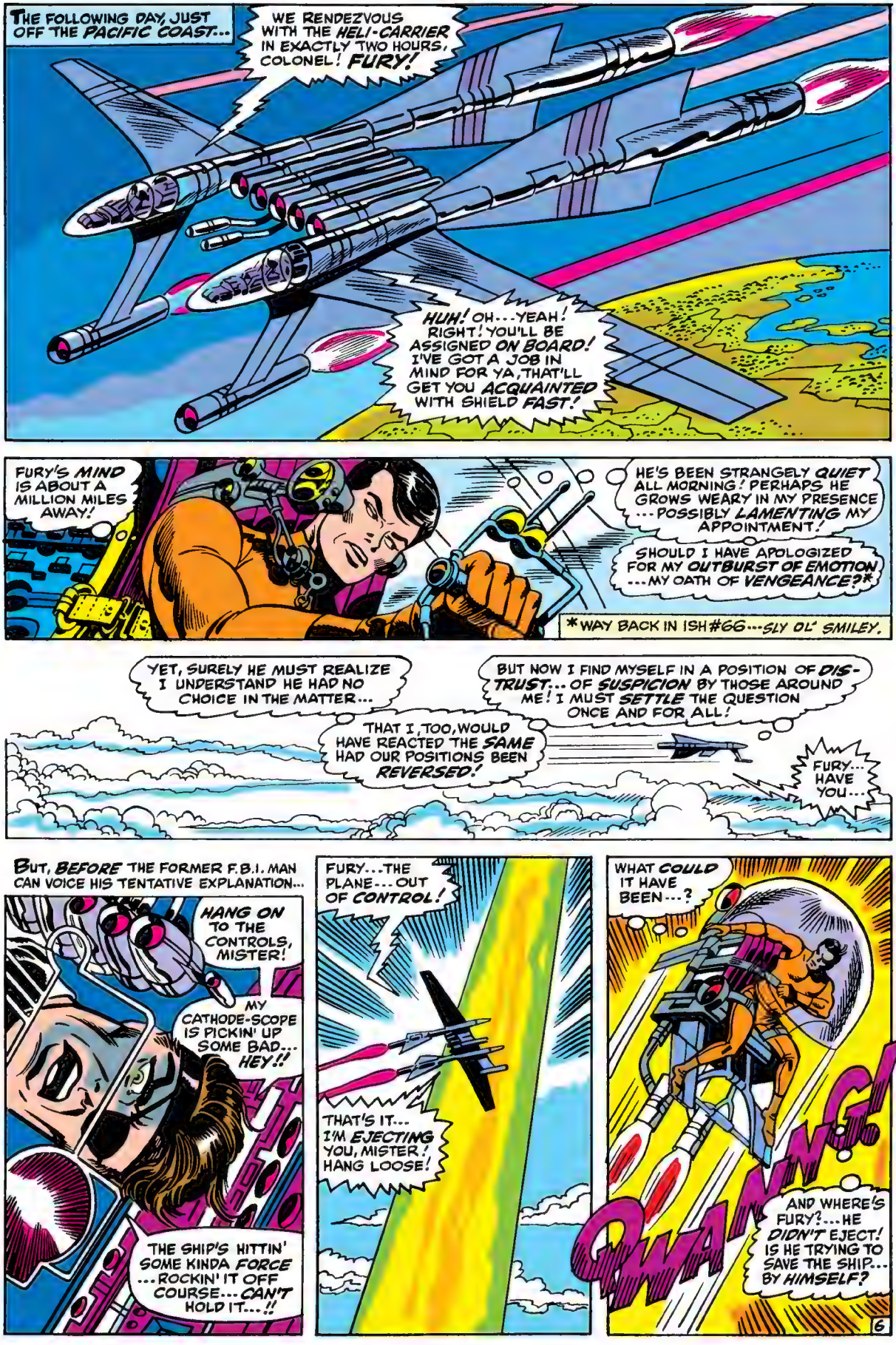
JOURNEY INTO FEAR WITH THIS TOWERING EPIC OF UNIVERSAL LIFE AND DEATH AS TOLD BY...
STAN LEE, EDITOR • JIM STERANKO, WRITER-ILLUSTRATOR • FRANK GIACOIA, INKER • SAM ROSEN, LETTERER

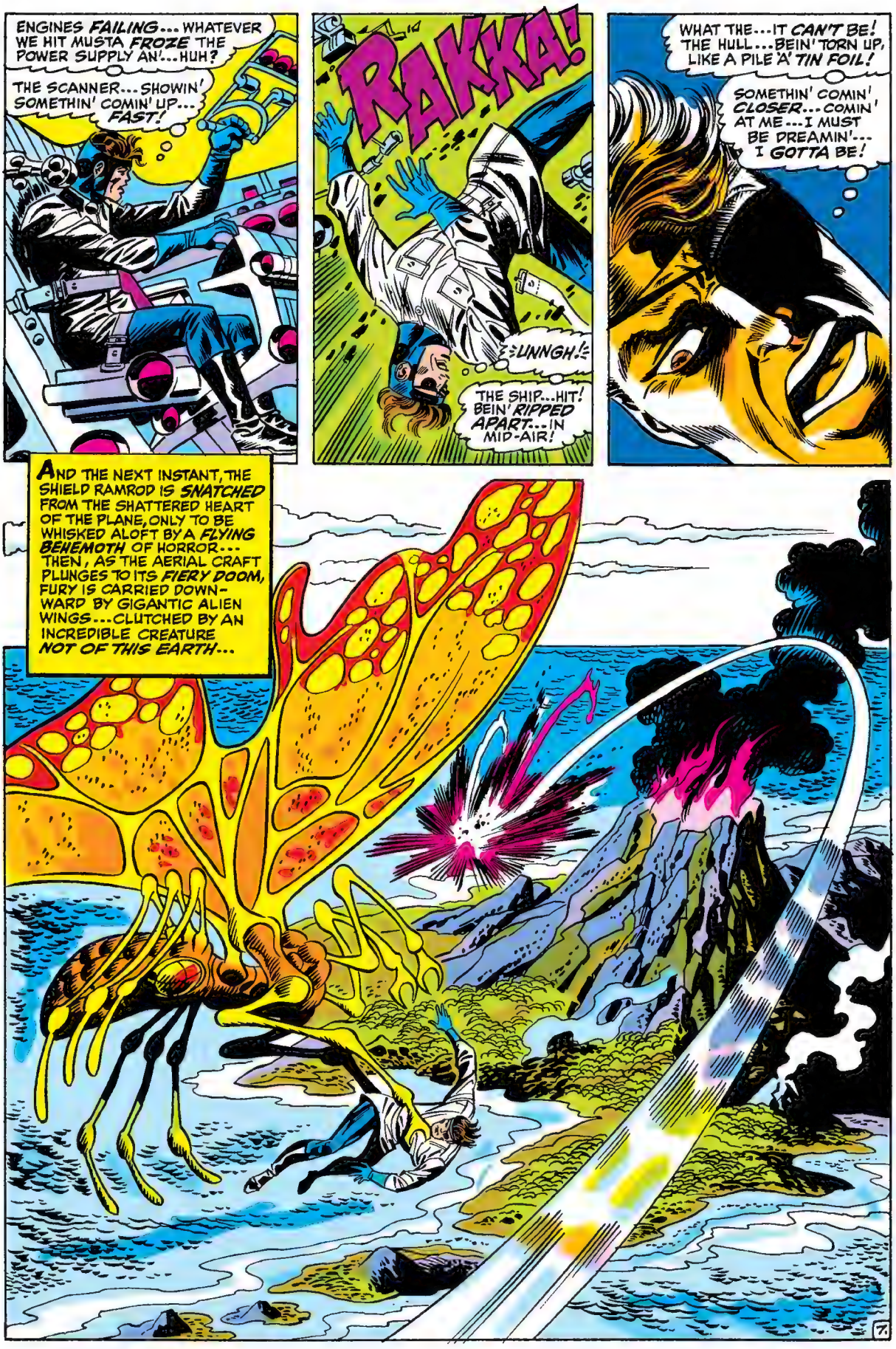
DEATH HAS MANY DOORS TO LET OUT LIFE! THE TIME HAS COME FOR CAUTION... IN EVERY SHADOW LURKS THE PRESENCE OF DANGER! EVERY SOUND MUST BE CALCULATED ---EVERY MOVE GAUGED! WITHOUT FAULT! I MUST NOT FAIL!
SSSKKEEEEEEEEE
WHEW!
WHA---MOVING SKELETONS!
BA-LAM!
BULLETS... CAN'T STOP THEM!
---BUT PERHAPS THIS WILL!
AH! THE BLOW SHATTERED ITS SPINE!
OTHERS... COMING UP BEHIND ME! MUST ACT FAS---UUGH!
IT WAS ALL A TRICK---TO GET ME INTO POSITION! TRAPDOOR--- FALLING!
2.

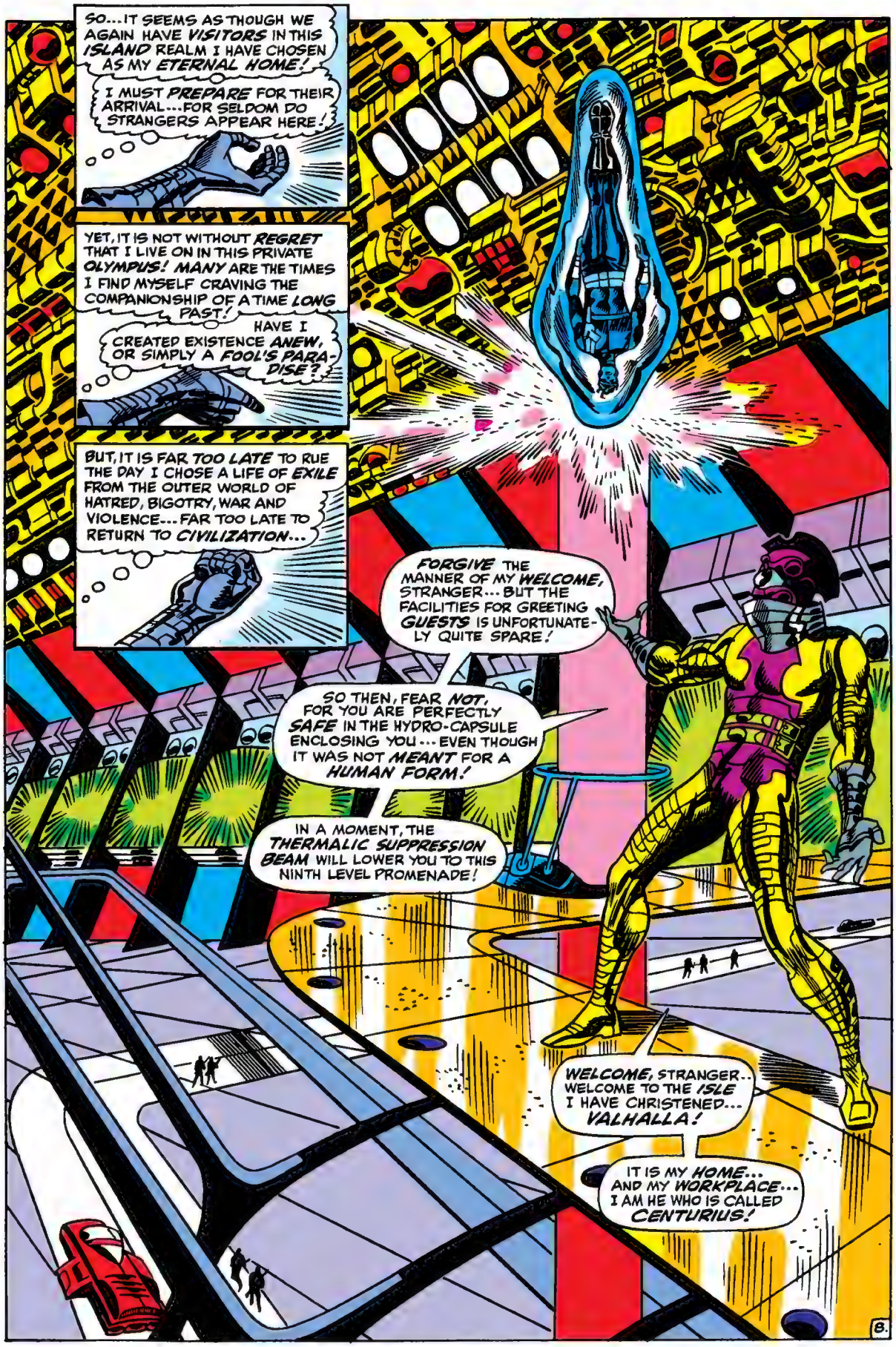
I'M BACK ON THE FUN HOUSE TRACK AGAIN...
---BUT IT'S ANOTHER TRAP.. GAS FUMES POURING FROM THOSE FLOOR VENTS!
THEY HAVE SEEN THAT I CANNOT TURN BACK NOW!
I MUST GO ON--- NO MATTER WHAT THE PRICE!
EVEN IF FAILURE SHOULD BRING THE SPECTRE OF DEATH, I SHALL NOT AVOID MY SWORN DUTY!
CAN'T SURVIVE A FALL THIS LONG.. MUST CATCH ON--- =UNGGH!= GOT IT---
BUT THE BEAM... CRACKING UNDER MY WEIGHT...HAVE TO TRY FOR THAT BOARDED-UP SECTION...
IF THE SPIRIT OF JIMMY WOO SHOULD YET LIVE TO SEE THE DAWN!
THEN...MY ONLY MEANS OF ESCAPE FROM THE TOXIC GAS IS...
...UNDERWATER!
SO, AGAIN I WEAR THE FACE OF THE FOOL... AND HAVE FALLEN PREY TO STILL ANOTHER TRAP!
I HAVE COME TOO FAR TO FORFEIT MY HONOR NOW!
IF ONLY I CAN SUBDUE THE BEAST WITH MY TIE...
3.


MOMENTS LATER...
IT IS DONE... BUT... CAN I GO ON? MY LUNGS BURN WITH THE FIRE OF THE DRAGON'S BREATH!
MY BODY... ACHING LIKE THE BONES OF THE ANCIENT STONE CUTTER!
TO GO ON WOULD BE USELESS!
WAIT! THAT SOUND ...IS IT POSSIBLE... OR HAS INSANITY TAKEN REFUGE IN MY MIND?
THE WALLS... MOVING... CLOSING IN ON ME!
NO WAY OUT... EXCEPT...
AHHH! AS I SUSPECTED... THE MAZE HAS NO END ...ONLY A BEGINNING... JUST BEYOND THE FINAL WALL... LIKE A HUGE ORIENTAL PUZZLE... BUT NOT IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE EASTERN MIND TO EASILY GRASP!
YES... THERE THEY ARE... AHEAD OF ME... WAITING... AS I KNEW THEY WOULD!
HEY... THAT SOUNDS LIKE HIM, NICK! HE MUSTA MADE IT! HOPE YOU KNOW WHAT YER DOIN'! ME... I WOULDN'T TRUST HIM... HE SWORE HE'D GET YA ONCE... RIGHT?
YEAH, I KNOW! BUT HE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT HE WAS SAYIN'! THAT SUWAN WAS ONLY AN AUTOMATON!
SURE... ONLY YOU DIDN'T KNOW IT WHEN YOU LET HER DIE! I NEVER EVEN SEEN HIM SMILE!
COOL IT! HERE HE COMES!
HEY! LOOKS LIKE YOU MADE IT IN ONE PIECE! WELCOME TO THE CLUB, PAL!
I TRUST THAT IN MY ENTHUSIASM I DIDN'T DAMAGE YOUR TRAINING APPARATUS BEYOND REPAIR!
DON'T SWEAT IT! WHEN QUARTERMAIN WENT THRU HIS FINAL TEST THERE WASN'T A STICK LEFT STANDING!
NICE GOIN'... NOW TAKE THE NIGHT OFF AN' RELAX! WE GOT A PLANE TO CATCH TOMORROW! PUT IT THERE, MISTER! YER WORKIN FOR SHIELD NOW!
4.


ABOUT TWO HOURS LATER, AT FURY'S NEW YORK PAD...
5


THE FOLLOWING DAY, JUST OFF THE PACIFIC COAST...
WE RENDEZVOUS WITH THE HELI-CARRIER IN EXACTLY TWO HOURS, COLONEL! FURY!
HUH! OH...YEAH! RIGHT! YOU'LL BE ASSIGNED ON BOARD! I'VE GOT A JOB IN MIND FOR YA, THAT'LL GET YOU ACQUAINTED WITH SHIELD FAST!
FURY'S MIND IS ABOUT A MILLION MILES AWAY!
HE'S BEEN STRANGELY QUIET ALL MORNING! PERHAPS HE GROWS WEARY IN MY PRESENCE ...POSSIBLY LAMENTING MY APPOINTMENT!
SHOULD I HAVE APOLOGIZED FOR MY OUTBURST OF EMOTION ...MY OATH OF VENGEANCE?*
*WAY BACK IN ISH #66...SLY OL' SMILEY.
YET, SURELY HE MUST REALIZE I UNDERSTAND HE HAD NO CHOICE IN THE MATTER...
BUT NOW I FIND MYSELF IN A POSITION OF DISTRUST... OF SUSPICION BY THOSE AROUND ME! I MUST SETTLE THE QUESTION ONCE AND FOR ALL!
THAT I, TOO, WOULD HAVE REACTED THE SAME HAD OUR POSITIONS BEEN REVERSED!
FURY... HAVE YOU...
BUT, BEFORE THE FORMER F.B.I. MAN CAN VOICE HIS TENTATIVE EXPLANATION...
HANG ON TO THE CONTROLS, MISTER!
MY CATHODE-SCOPE IS PICKIN' UP SOME BAD... HEY!!
THE SHIP'S HITTIN' SOME KINDA FORCE ...ROCKIN' IT OFF COURSE... CAN'T HOLD IT...!!
FURY...THE PLANE...OUT OF CONTROL!
THAT'S IT... I'M EJECTING YOU, MISTER! HANG LOOSE!
WHAT COULD IT HAVE BEEN...?
KWANG!
AND WHERE'S FURY?...HE DIDN'T EJECT! IS HE TRYING TO SAVE THE SHIP... BY HIMSELF?


ENGINES FAILING... WHATEVER WE HIT MUSTA FROZE THE POWER SUPPLY AN'... HUH?
THE SCANNER... SHOWIN' SOMETHIN' COMIN' UP... FAST!
RAKKA!
:UNNGH!:
THE SHIP... HIT! BEIN' RIPPED APART... IN MID-AIR!
WHAT THE... IT CAN'T BE! THE HULL... BEIN' TORN UP, LIKE A PILE 'A' TIN FOIL!
SOMETHIN' COMIN' CLOSER... COMIN' AT ME... I MUST BE DREAMIN'... I GOTTA BE!
AND THE NEXT INSTANT, THE SHIELD RAMROD IS SNATCHED FROM THE SHATTERED HEART OF THE PLANE, ONLY TO BE WHISKED ALOFT BY A FLYING BEHEMOTH OF HORROR... THEN, AS THE AERIAL CRAFT PLUNGES TO ITS FIERY DOOM, FURY IS CARRIED DOWNWARD BY GIGANTIC ALIEN WINGS... CLUTCHED BY AN INCREDIBLE CREATURE NOT OF THIS EARTH...


SO...IT SEEMS AS THOUGH WE AGAIN HAVE VISITORS IN THIS ISLAND REALM I HAVE CHOSEN AS MY ETERNAL HOME!
I MUST PREPARE FOR THEIR ARRIVAL...FOR SELDOM DO STRANGERS APPEAR HERE!
YET, IT IS NOT WITHOUT REGRET THAT I LIVE ON IN THIS PRIVATE OLYMPUS! MANY ARE THE TIMES I FIND MYSELF CRAVING THE COMPANIONSHIP OF A TIME LONG PAST!
HAVE I CREATED EXISTENCE ANEW, OR SIMPLY A FOOL'S PARADISE?
BUT, IT IS FAR TOO LATE TO RUE THE DAY I CHOSE A LIFE OF EXILE FROM THE OUTER WORLD OF HATRED, BIGOTRY, WAR AND VIOLENCE... FAR TOO LATE TO RETURN TO CIVILIZATION...
FORGIVE THE MANNER OF MY WELCOME, STRANGER... BUT THE FACILITIES FOR GREETING GUESTS IS UNFORTUNATELY QUITE SPARE!
SO THEN, FEAR NOT, FOR YOU ARE PERFECTLY SAFE IN THE HYDRO-CAPSULE ENCLOSING YOU... EVEN THOUGH IT WAS NOT MEANT FOR A HUMAN FORM!
IN A MOMENT, THE THERMALIC SUPPRESSION BEAM WILL LOWER YOU TO THIS NINTH LEVEL PROMENADE!
WELCOME, STRANGER.. WELCOME TO THE ISLE I HAVE CHRISTENED... VALHALLA!
IT IS MY HOME... AND MY WORKPLACE... I AM HE WHO IS CALLED CENTURIUS!

ARMS-MEN... ASSIST THE STRANGER!
BUT TAKE CARE... BE AS GENTLE AS POSSIBLE!
WE'LL HAVE TO RELIEVE YOU OF THE WEAPON, MY FRIEND... VALHALLA HAS NO PLACE FOR THEM!
THOSE THE ARMS-MEN CARRY ARE SIMPLY FOR PROTECTION AGAINST... WELL.. LET'S JUST SAY... DANGEROUS EXPERIMENTATION!
NOW THEN, WHOM DO WE HAVE THE PLEASURE OF ADDRESSING?
FURY... NICK FURY! BUT WHAT IN SAM HILL'S GOIN' ON HERE? FIRST, I GOTTA DITCH MY PLANE, THEN SOME KIND'A FLYIN' MONSTROSITY BRINGS ME HERE, AN' NOW A BUNCH'A FREAKS GRAB MY HARDWARE! HOW 'BOUT IT, MISTER?
IN A MOMENT, MISTER FURY... IN A MOMENT... NO NEED TO...
LOOK, FELLA... I'M LOSIN' MY PATIENCE... AN' MORE'N THAT! I JUST LOST A CO-PILOT SOMEWHERE OUT IN THE OCEAN!
BESIDES, I'D LIKE TO SEE WHO I'M TALKIN' TO... UNLESS YA GOT SOMETHIN' TA HIDE BEHIND THAT GET-UP!
NOT AT ALL... AND IF I COULD SUGGEST YOU TURN AROUND... YOU'LL FIND A SURPRISE!
AS FOR THIS OUTFIT... MERELY A NECESSARY PRECAUTION IN MY TESTS... NOTHING MORE!
HE'S RIGHT, FURY... AND I'M AS SURPRISED TO BE HERE AS YOU ARE TO BEHOLD ME!
HUH? JIMMY WOO!
YES... AS SOON AS I HIT THE WATER, I WAS GRIPPED BY SOMETHING UNDERWATER, TAKEN TO THE ISLAND, AND TOSSED INTO THAT ELEVATOR! --- THAT'S IT!
AT FIRST, I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE STILL ANOTHER SHIELD TEST!
HARDLY, PAL... LET'S SEE WHAT HE'S GOT TO SAY!
PLEASE DON'T BE ALARMED, GENTLEMEN!
ALL THE APPARATUS SURROUNDING YOU ONLY MEANS YOU NOW STAND IN THE HEART OF MY LABORATORY!
FOR HERE, ON THIS ISLAND, LIES THE SALVATION OF LIFE ON EARTH!
ALL LIFE... NOW DOOMED BY MEGATON DEATH... BY HUMAN GREED!
BUT HOW ABOUT THE VOLCANO?
SIMPLY AN ASTRAL PROJECTION OF AN ACTIVE ONE!
9.

"GENTLEMEN...YEARS AGO, I DISCOVERED THAT LIFE AS WE KNOW IT TODAY EVOLVED FROM *INTERNUCLEAR SPACE!* WHEN I REVEALED THIS TO MY COLLEAGUES, I WAS *RIDICULED*...REBUFFED FOR THEORIZING THAT EVERY *ATOM* WAS A SUB-MINIATURE SOLAR SYSTEM IN ITSELF...!"

"UNABLE TO CONTINUE MY EXPERIMENTS, I CAME TO VALHALLA AND DEVELOPED AN *EVOLUTION PROCESS* ...WHAT HAD THUS TAKEN CENTURIES, NOW TOOK ONLY *SECONDS*... WORLDS EVOLVED FROM A *SINGLE* DROP OF WATER..."

"THE *EVOLUTIONIZER* PRODUCED HUNDREDS OF *LIFE FORMS* FROM THE *MICROCOSM*, MANY THAT ARE COMPLETELY ALIEN BY EARTH STANDARDS..!"

"STILL OTHERS, THAT ARE *NOT UNLIKE* THOSE OF PRE-HISTORIC EARTH...THE DIRECT ANTECEDENTS OF *MAN!* ALL PRODUCED FROM A SINGLE *PROTEIN* MOLECULE...THE BUILDING BLOCK OF ALL LIFE---!"

"TAKING INFINITE CARE, I HAVE *PAIRED OFF* THESE NEW LIFE FORMS AND AM *BEAMING* THEM INTO SPACE ABOARD MY *AUTOMATED REBIRTH COLONIZER!* IT WAS THIS BEAM YOUR PLANE INTERSECTED..."

*UNBELIEVABLE!* YA *GOTTA* COME BACK WITH US! THINGS AIN'T LIKE THEY USED TO BE! YOU'LL HAVE THE *WORLD* AT YER FEET! HOW *ABOUT* IT?

CONSIDER A MOMENT, FURY! HONEY IN THE MOUTH IS SOMETIMES POISON IN THE HEART!

I AM, INDEED SORRY, GENTLEMEN, BUT *OTHER PLANS* PREVENT ME FROM LEAVING!

THE *SAME* PLANS WHICH MUST KEEP US *ALL* ON THIS ISLAND...

UNTIL THE *NOONTIDE* OF THIS LIFE IS *GONE!*

I DON'T GET IT, MISTER! YA *CAN'T* BE SAYIN' WHAT I *THINK* YER SAYIN'!

INDEED? THEN ALLOW ME TO BE MORE *SPECIFIC!*

"WHEN MY *A.R.C.* IS FILLED TO CAPACITY...THE SECOND PHASE OF REESTABLISHMENT WILL *BEGIN!* ONCE IN ORBIT, THE CRAFT WILL ASSAIL THE WORLD WITH AN ALL-CONSUMING *RAIN* OF RADIOACTIVE *FIRE*...FOR A PERIOD OF *FORTY DAYS* AND *FORTY NIGHTS!*"

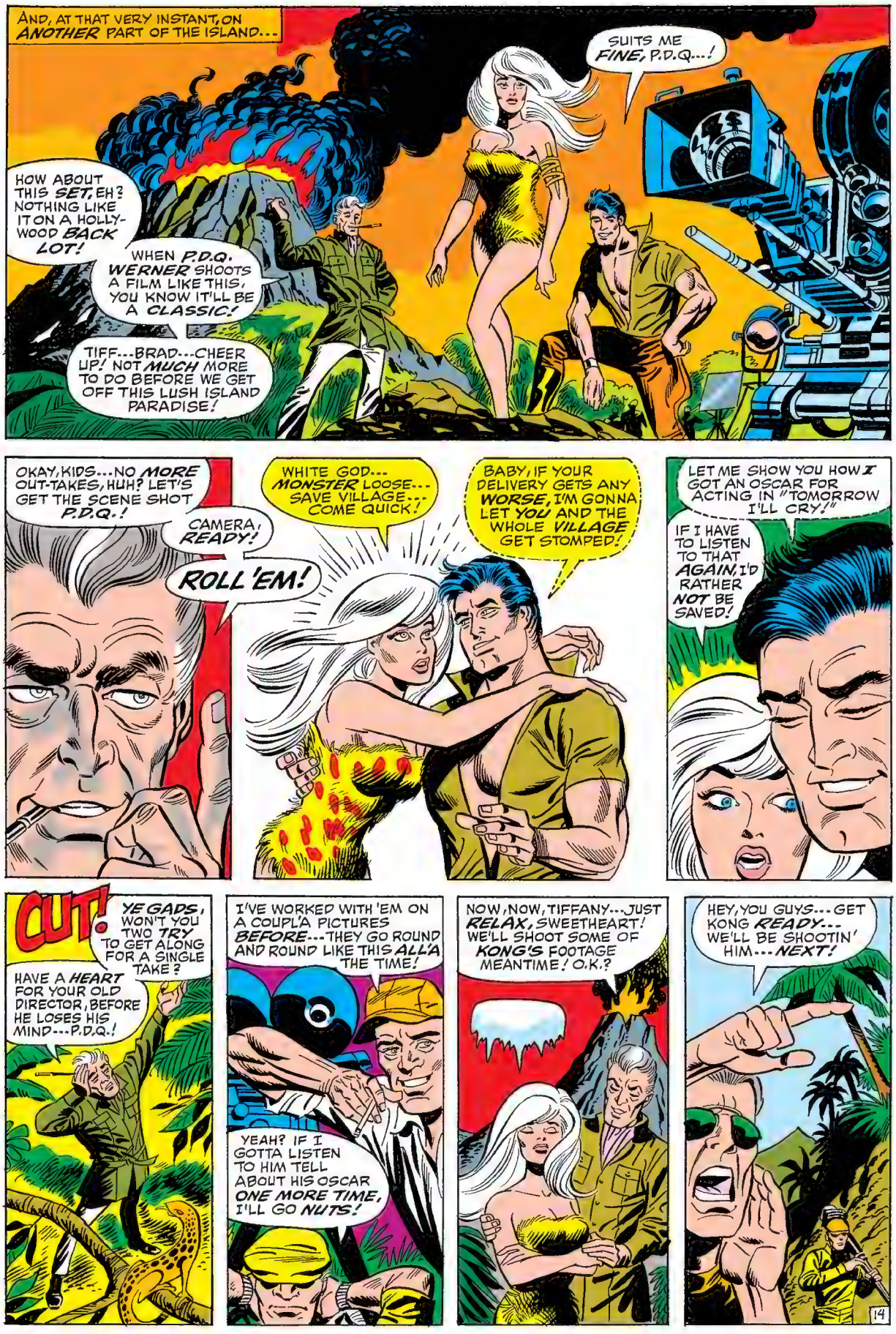
ARE YA TRYIN' TA SAY THAT *EVERY* NATION ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH WILL BE... *WIPED OUT?*

"PRECISELY...BUT MANKIND IS *ALREADY* HELL-BENT ON ITS OWN *DESTRUCTION!* AS MY *PARABLE OF DOOM* STRIKES FROM THE HEAVENS, SO WILL IT ALSO GIVE THIS PLANET A *SECOND CHANCE* FOR REGENERATION WITH ITS *PAYLOAD* OF NEW LIFE!"

YOU SEE, EXACTLY ONE *CENTURY* AFTERWARD, THE A.R.C. WILL LAND...ON AN EARTH RESEMBLING A *GARDEN OF EDEN!*

ALL OF US WILL REMAIN HERE UNTIL THE END... OR PERHAPS I SHOULD CALL IT... THE BEGINNING!
THE BEGINNING OF AN EARTH WITHOUT THE THREAT OF MASS MURDER, INTIMIDATION, FEAR!
HEY, HOLD IT! I'VE SEEN YOU BEFORE... DR. NOAH BLACK, NOBEL PRIZE WINNER IN THE 30'S! YOU'D DISAPPEARED!
NO, THAT CAN'T BE... YOU'D BE AN OLD MAN BY NOW!
YES, I ONCE WAS NOAH BLACK, WHO WAS CENSURED FOR HIS IDEAS, BUT... CENTURIUS IS ANOTHER MAN COMPLETELY--
ANSWERING TO NO ONE... AND SOON YOU SHALL WITNESS THE LABORS OF CENTURIUS BEAR THE FRUIT OF SALVATION UPON THIS WORLD!
NO MAN HAS THE RIGHT TO SET HIMSELF UP AS A GOD!
A MAN MUST DO THE THINGS HE THINKS BEST!
AND NOW, GENTLEMEN, I MUST ATTEND TO OTHER MATTERS! I SEE ON THE T-VIEWER WE HAVE MORE VISITORS ON THE ISLAND!
BUT IT SEEMS AS THOUGH MY ATTENTION WILL NOT BE NEEDED THERE!
EVEN NOW, THEY TRAVEL ALONG THE CRYSTAL LAKE... TOWARD THE POOL OF LOST SOULS!
THEY SHALL NEVER RETURN!
FURY, WE MUST STOP THIS INSANITY... HIS PLAN CANNOT CONTINUE!
IT MATTERS LITTLE IF WORLD DESTRUCTION COMES BY THE HAND OF SAMARITANS OR SAVAGES!
STILL, WHAT IS ONE TO DO AGAINST SUCH ODDS?
THAT WHICH WE THINK IS BEST, ALSO!
IT IS SAID THAT THE SMALLEST OF FLEAS CAN CAUSE DISCOMFORT TO THE GREATEST OF DOGS!
RIGHT, PAL! IN YER OWN CORNY WAY, YA SAID A MOUTHFUL!
I'LL TAKE THE BALL! SEE IF YA CAN HOLD 'EM OFF 'TIL I CAN GET OUTTA HERE!
WOK!
GOTTA TRY'N FIND OUT WHO ELSE IS ON THE ISLAND! MAYBE TOGETHER WE CAN DO SOMETHIN'!
OR IT'S GONNA BE TOO BAD FOR THE WHOLE WORLD!
KERASH!
11.

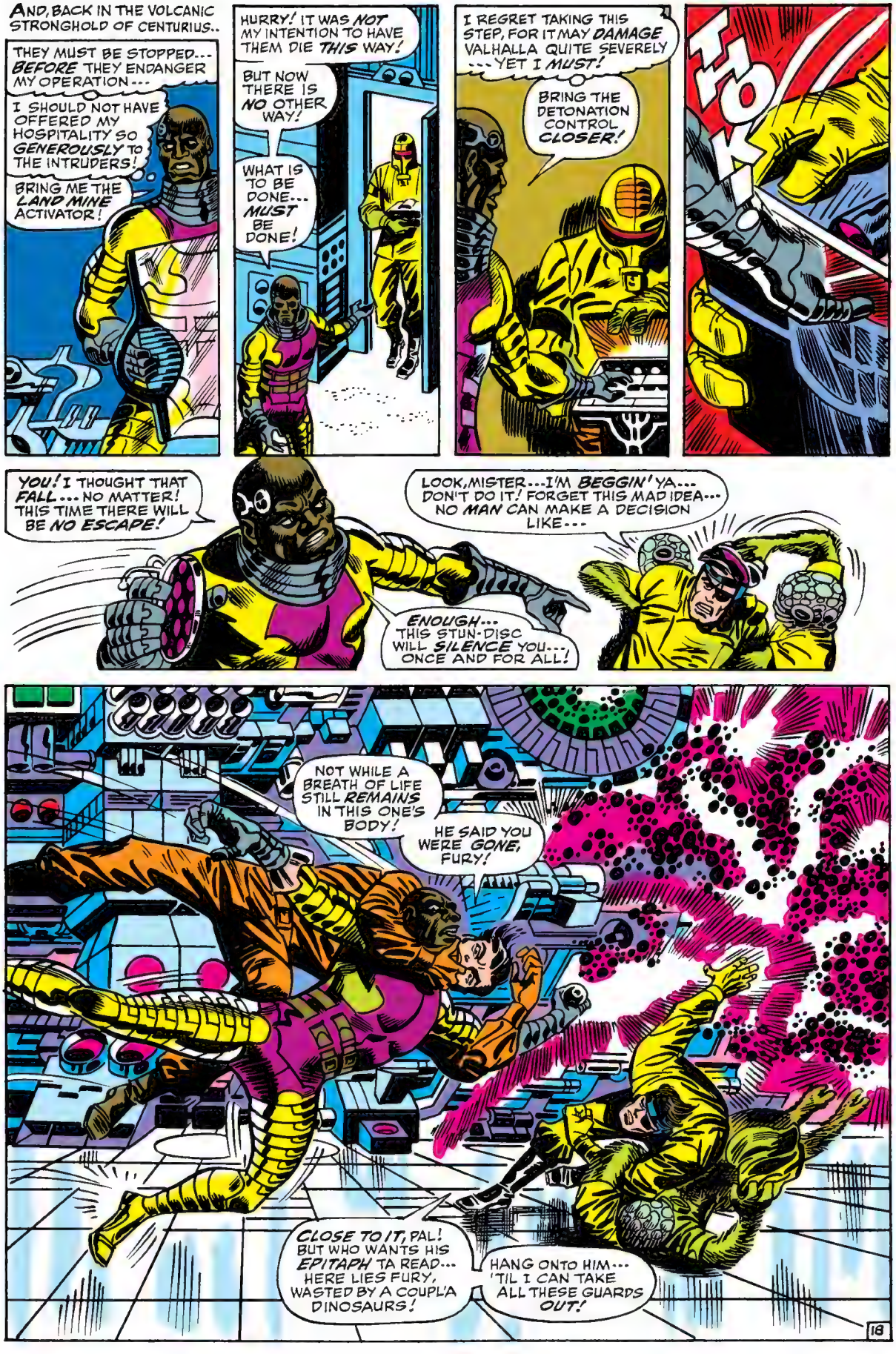
THEN, THE INDESTRUCTIBLE *AGENT OF SHIELD* CRASHES THRU A *WALL LENS* OF THE LOFTY EXPERIMENTAL CHAMBER AND PLUNGES LIKE A BIRD WITHOUT WINGS INTO THE *WORLD OF CENTURIUS*...A WORLD OF *AWAKENING LIFE*, WHERE A THOUSAND DEATHS WAIT...SURROUNDED BY A COLOSSEUM OF MACHINERY HUMMING WITH *INEXORABLE POWER*, BUILT INTO THE VERY WALLS OF THE *VOLCANO* ITSELF...LYING IN SPELLBINDING *CONTRAST* TO A WORLD THAT CEASED TO EXIST A *MILLION YEARS AGO*... *LIKE AN ISLAND THAT GOD FORGOT*...

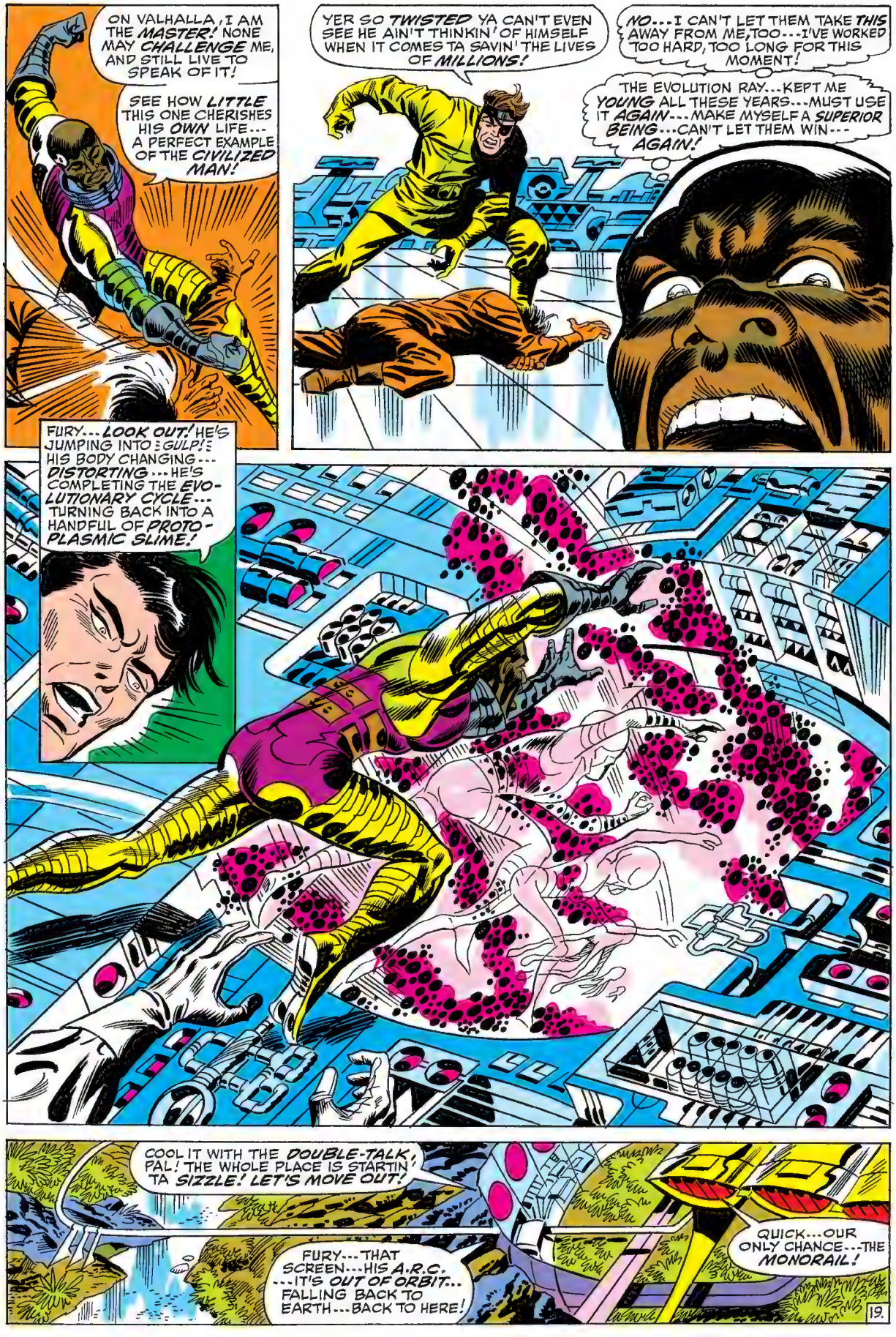

AND, AT THAT VERY INSTANT, ON ANOTHER PART OF THE ISLAND...
SUITS ME FINE, P.D.Q...!
HOW ABOUT THIS SET, EH? NOTHING LIKE IT ON A HOLLYWOOD BACK LOT!
WHEN P.D.Q. WERNER SHOOTS A FILM LIKE THIS, YOU KNOW IT'LL BE A CLASSIC!
TIFF...BRAD...CHEER UP! NOT MUCH MORE TO DO BEFORE WE GET OFF THIS LUSH ISLAND PARADISE!
OKAY, KIDS...NO MORE OUT-TAKES, HUH? LET'S GET THE SCENE SHOT P.D.Q.!
CAMERA, READY!
ROLL 'EM!
WHITE GOD... MONSTER LOOSE... SAVE VILLAGE... COME QUICK!
BABY, IF YOUR DELIVERY GETS ANY WORSE, I'M GONNA LET YOU AND THE WHOLE VILLAGE GET STOMPED!
LET ME SHOW YOU HOW I GOT AN OSCAR FOR ACTING IN "TOMORROW I'LL CRY!"
IF I HAVE TO LISTEN TO THAT AGAIN, I'D RATHER NOT BE SAVED!
CUT!
YE GADS, WON'T YOU TWO TRY TO GET ALONG FOR A SINGLE TAKE?
HAVE A HEART FOR YOUR OLD DIRECTOR, BEFORE HE LOSES HIS MIND---P.D.Q.!
I'VE WORKED WITH 'EM ON A COUPL'A PICTURES BEFORE---THEY GO ROUND AND ROUND LIKE THIS ALL'A THE TIME!
YEAH? IF I GOTTA LISTEN TO HIM TELL ABOUT HIS OSCAR ONE MORE TIME, I'LL GO NUTS!
NOW, NOW, TIFFANY...JUST RELAX, SWEETHEART! WE'LL SHOOT SOME OF KONG'S FOOTAGE MEANTIME! O.K.?
HEY, YOU GUYS...GET KONG READY... WE'LL BE SHOOTIN' HIM...NEXT!
14

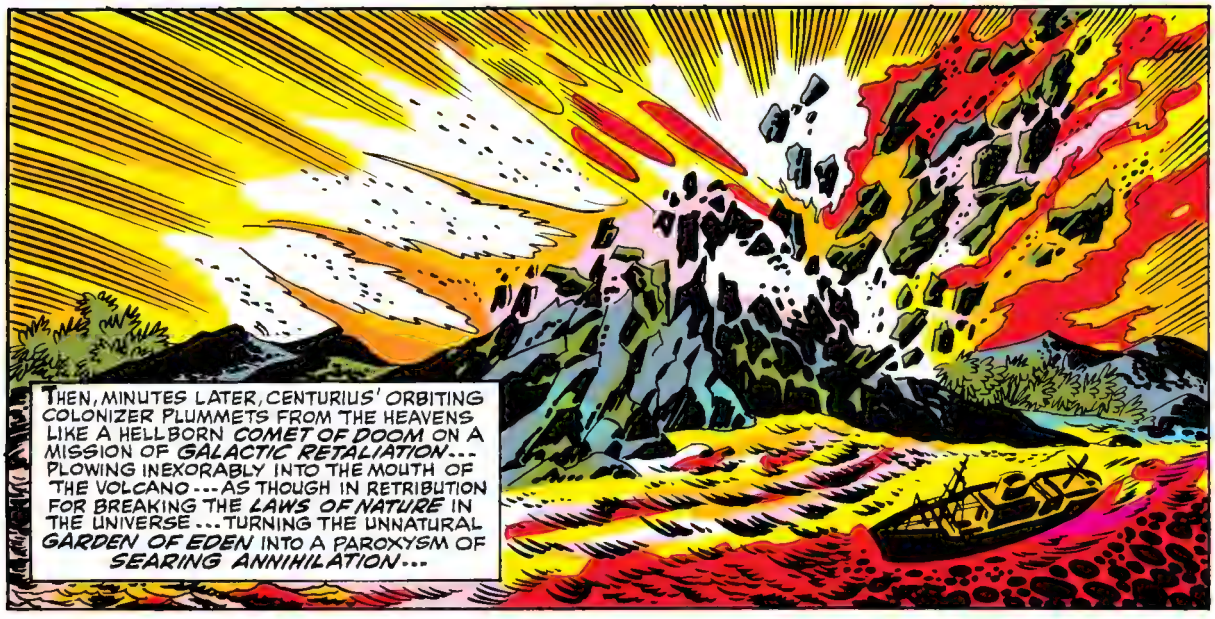
MEANWHILE...
WHEW! ...HADN'T BEEN FOR... THIS... LAKE... I'D BE... WASTED...
DIVE... TAKIN' ME TOO DEEP... GOTTA SURFACE...
RAILCAR ...JUST WHAT I ...NEED...
MINUTES LATER, THE INTREPID AGENT BOARDS THE ELEVATED VEHICLE... LITTLE SUSPECTING THE HULKING MENACE SEVERAL MILES DOWN THE TRACK...
RRRR
AAKK!
...UNTIL IT IS TOO LATE... UNTIL THE TWILIGHT BEAST SHAKES HIM FROM THE TENUOUS PERCH...
...AND INTO A POOL OF TEPID QUICKSAND...
UNNGHH!
CAN'T MOVE...! SLIME... TRAPPIN' ME ...SUCKIN' ME UNDER!
AN' IF IT DON'T GET ME... THAT MONSTER WILL!

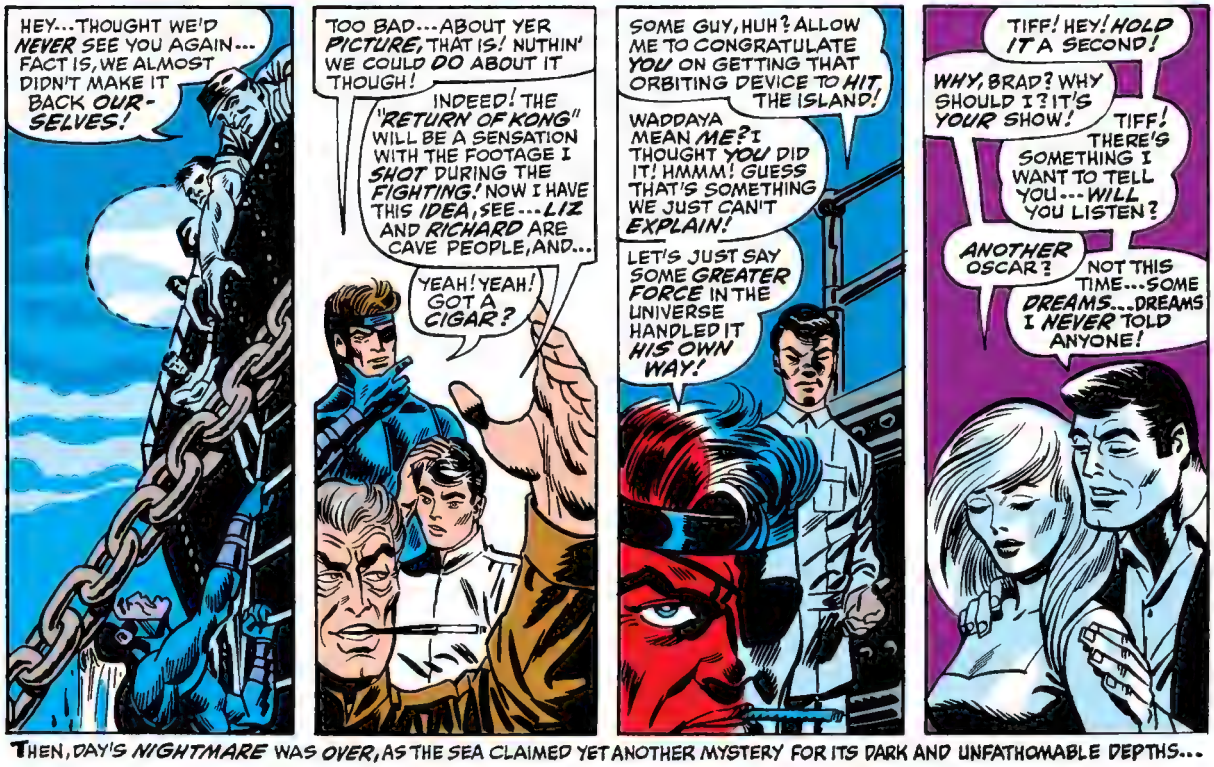
SUDDENLY...
WHOEVER HE IS...THAT GUY'S NOT GOIN' UNDER IF BRAD CARTER CAN HELP IT!
DO YOU WANT TO GET YOURSELF KILLED, HERO?
BABY, HAVEN'T YOU EVER SEEN ME IN "FORBIDDEN JUNGLE"?
OH, PLEASE! NOT NOW!
SMOKE CHARGES
DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU WERE DOING OUT THERE, PAL...BUT LUCKY FOR YOU I HAPPENED TO BE AROUND!
IS...IS HE ALL RIGHT?
SURE..SURE... HE'LL BE OKAY!
HEY, P.D.Q... I HOPE YOU GOT THAT ON FILM!
THANKS, FELLA! I OWE YOU MY LIFE!
AN' I'M GONNA RETURN THE FAVOR!
IT'S A LONG STORY AN' I AIN'T GOT TIME TA EXPLAIN!
WE'RE ALL DEAD UNLESS YA DO WHAT I SAY!
NOW JUST A MOMENT, YOUNG MAN ...WE HAVE A SCHEDULE TO KEEP, AND...
LISTEN, MISTER...WE GOTTA GET THE SAM HILL OUTTA HERE...AN' FAST! PAY ATTENTION OR YA WON'T LIVE TA SHOOT ANOTHER FRAME! UNDERSTAND?
I NEED YOUR CREW TO CREATE A DIVERSION! YOU GOT ANY WEAPONS AROUND?
FRIEND, I KNOW A CONVINCING PERFORMANCE WHEN I SEE ONE!
AND IF IT'S A DIVERSION YOU WANT, WE'VE JUST THE THING...
16.

KONG!
...AND WITHIN THE HOUR, THE INVASION OF THE DAWN WORLD BEGINS, LED BY THE TOWERING ROBOT FIGURE OF A MONSTER APE... BATTLING AS THOUGH FOR HIS VERY LIFE, BATTLING LIKE THOSE WHOSE LIKENESS HE BEARS ONCE FOUGHT EONS AGO, STEEL AND SPRING AGAINST FANG AND CLAW... RE-ENACTING THE SAVAGE CONFLICT OF LIFE AND DEATH AS IT OCCURRED CENTURIES BEFORE MAN WAS TO STAND UPON TWO FEET IN THE PRIMORDIAL WILDERNESS... AND, AS THE ISLAND ITSELF TREMBLES WITH PRIMEVAL ANGER, THE SMALL BAND OF MOVIEMAKERS HURL THEMSELVES INTO THE PREHISTORIC ONSLAUGHT, FIGHTING WITH SMALL ARMS, SMOKE GRENADES, FLARES, USING ANY WEAPON HANDY AS THE TALL STRANGER CALLED FURY HAD PLANNED... TAKING UP THE BATTLE CRY FOR MANKIND... PRAYING SILENTLY IT IS NOT YET TOO LATE...

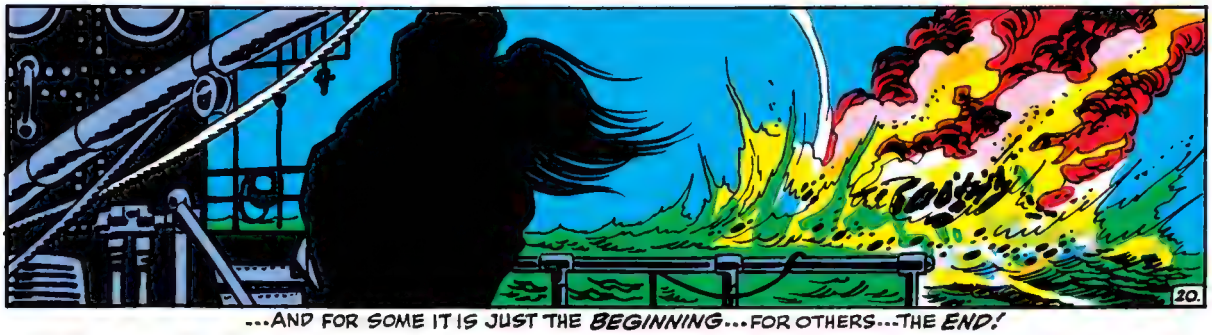

AND, BACK IN THE VOLCANIC STRONGHOLD OF CENTURIUS..
THEY MUST BE STOPPED... BEFORE THEY ENDANGER MY OPERATION...
I SHOULD NOT HAVE OFFERED MY HOSPITALITY SO GENEROUSLY TO THE INTRUDERS!
BRING ME THE LAND MINE ACTIVATOR!
HURRY! IT WAS NOT MY INTENTION TO HAVE THEM DIE THIS WAY!
BUT NOW THERE IS NO OTHER WAY!
WHAT IS TO BE DONE... MUST BE DONE!
I REGRET TAKING THIS STEP, FOR IT MAY DAMAGE VALHALLA QUITE SEVERELY ...YET I MUST!
BRING THE DETONATION CONTROL CLOSER!
TOK!
YOU! I THOUGHT THAT FALL... NO MATTER! THIS TIME THERE WILL BE NO ESCAPE!
LOOK, MISTER... I'M BEGGIN' YA... DON'T DO IT! FORGET THIS MAD IDEA... NO MAN CAN MAKE A DECISION LIKE...
ENOUGH... THIS STUN-DISC WILL SILENCE YOU... ONCE AND FOR ALL!
NOT WHILE A BREATH OF LIFE STILL REMAINS IN THIS ONE'S BODY!
HE SAID YOU WERE GONE, FURY!
CLOSE TO IT, PAL! BUT WHO WANTS HIS EPITAPH TA READ... HERE LIES FURY, WASTED BY A COUPLA DINOSAURS!
HANG ONTO HIM... 'TIL I CAN TAKE ALL THESE GUARDS OUT!
18


ON VALHALLA, I AM THE MASTER! NONE MAY CHALLENGE ME, AND STILL LIVE TO SPEAK OF IT!
SEE HOW LITTLE THIS ONE CHERISHES HIS OWN LIFE--- A PERFECT EXAMPLE OF THE CIVILIZED MAN!
YER SO TWISTED YA CAN'T EVEN SEE HE AIN'T THINKIN' OF HIMSELF WHEN IT COMES TA SAVIN' THE LIVES OF MILLIONS!
NO---I CAN'T LET THEM TAKE THIS AWAY FROM ME, TOO---I'VE WORKED TOO HARD, TOO LONG FOR THIS MOMENT!
THE EVOLUTION RAY---KEPT ME YOUNG ALL THESE YEARS---MUST USE IT AGAIN---MAKE MYSELF A SUPERIOR BEING---CAN'T LET THEM WIN--- AGAIN!
FURY---LOOK OUT! HE'S JUMPING INTO---GULP!---HIS BODY CHANGING--- DISTORTING---HE'S COMPLETING THE EVOLUTIONARY CYCLE--- TURNING BACK INTO A HANDFUL OF PROTOPLASMIC SLIME!
COOL IT WITH THE DOUBLE-TALK, PAL! THE WHOLE PLACE IS STARTIN' TA SIZZLE! LET'S MOVE OUT!
FURY---THAT SCREEN---HIS A.R.C. ---IT'S OUT OF ORBIT... FALLING BACK TO EARTH---BACK TO HERE!
QUICK---OUR ONLY CHANCE---THE MONORAIL!


THEN, MINUTES LATER, CENTURIUS' ORBITING COLONIZER PLUMMETS FROM THE HEAVENS LIKE A HELLBORN COMET OF DOOM ON A MISSION OF GALACTIC RETALIATION--- PLOWING INEXORABLY INTO THE MOUTH OF THE VOLCANO---AS THOUGH IN RETRIBUTION FOR BREAKING THE LAWS OF NATURE IN THE UNIVERSE...TURNING THE UNNATURAL GARDEN OF EDEN INTO A PAROXYSM OF SEARING ANNIHILATION...


HEY...THOUGHT WE'D NEVER SEE YOU AGAIN... FACT IS, WE ALMOST DIDN'T MAKE IT BACK OUR-SELVES!
TOO BAD...ABOUT YER PICTURE, THAT IS! NUTHIN' WE COULD DO ABOUT IT THOUGH!
INDEED! THE "RETURN OF KONG" WILL BE A SENSATION WITH THE FOOTAGE I SHOT DURING THE FIGHTING! NOW I HAVE THIS IDEA; SEE---LIZ AND RICHARD ARE CAVE PEOPLE, AND...
YEAH! YEAH! GOT A CIGAR?
SOME GUY, HUH? ALLOW ME TO CONGRATULATE YOU ON GETTING THAT ORBITING DEVICE TO HIT THE ISLAND!
WADDAYA MEAN ME? I THOUGHT YOU DID IT! HMMM! GUESS THAT'S SOMETHING WE JUST CAN'T EXPLAIN!
LET'S JUST SAY SOME GREATER FORCE IN THE UNIVERSE HANDLED IT HIS OWN WAY!
TIFF! HEY! HOLD IT A SECOND!
WHY, BRAD? WHY SHOULD I? IT'S YOUR SHOW!
TIFF! THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO TELL YOU---WILL YOU LISTEN?
ANOTHER OSCAR?
NOT THIS TIME...SOME DREAMS...DREAMS I NEVER TOLD ANYONE!

THEN, DAY'S NIGHTMARE WAS OVER, AS THE SEA CLAIMED YET ANOTHER MYSTERY FOR ITS DARK AND UNFATHOMABLE DEPTHS...



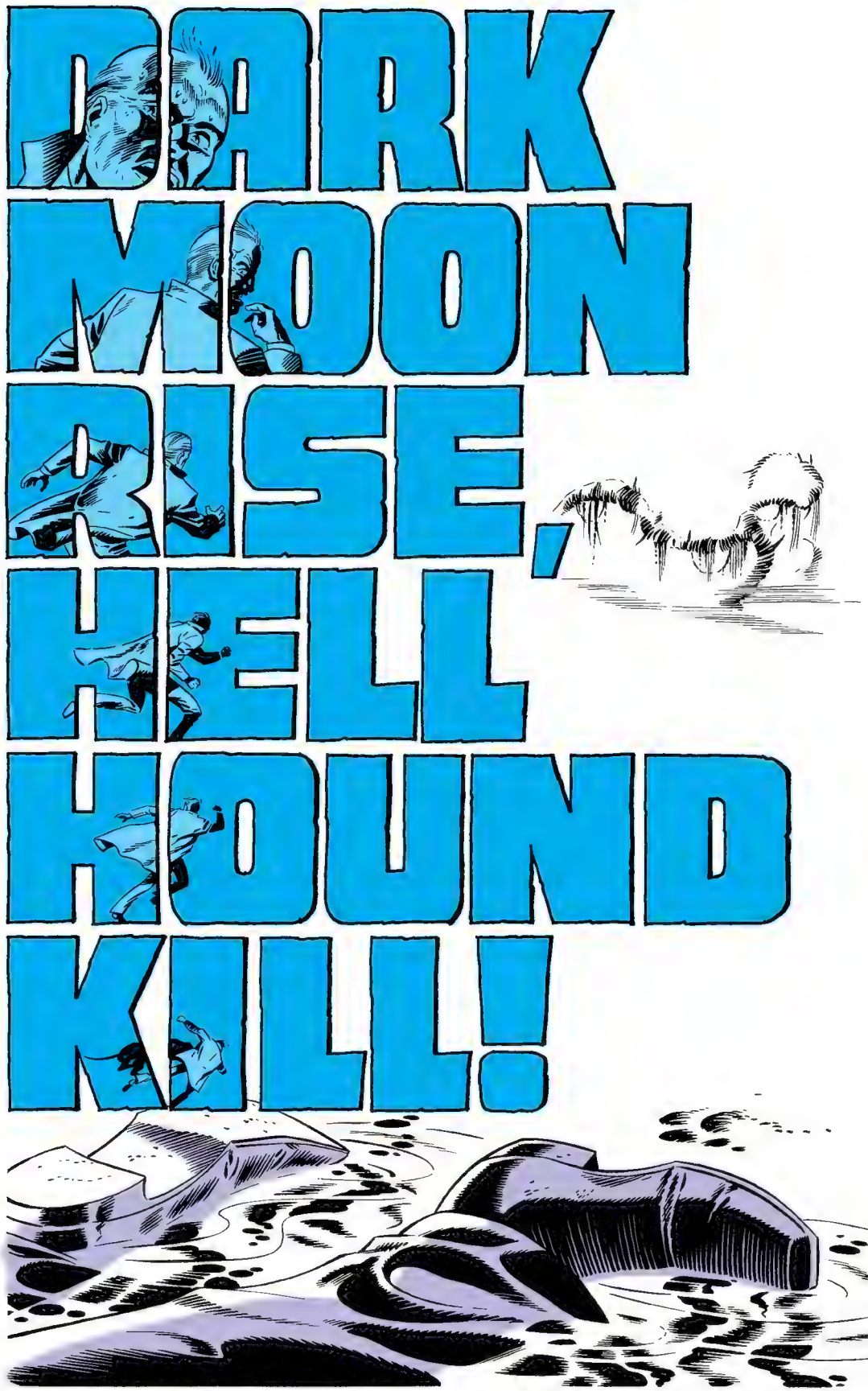

...AND FOR SOME IT IS JUST THE BEGINNING...FOR OTHERS...THE END!

NICK FURY, AGENT OF...
S.H.I.E.L.D.
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
12¢ IND.
3 AUG
STERANKO
R.I.P.
BLACK HUGH RAVENLOCK
1758-1805

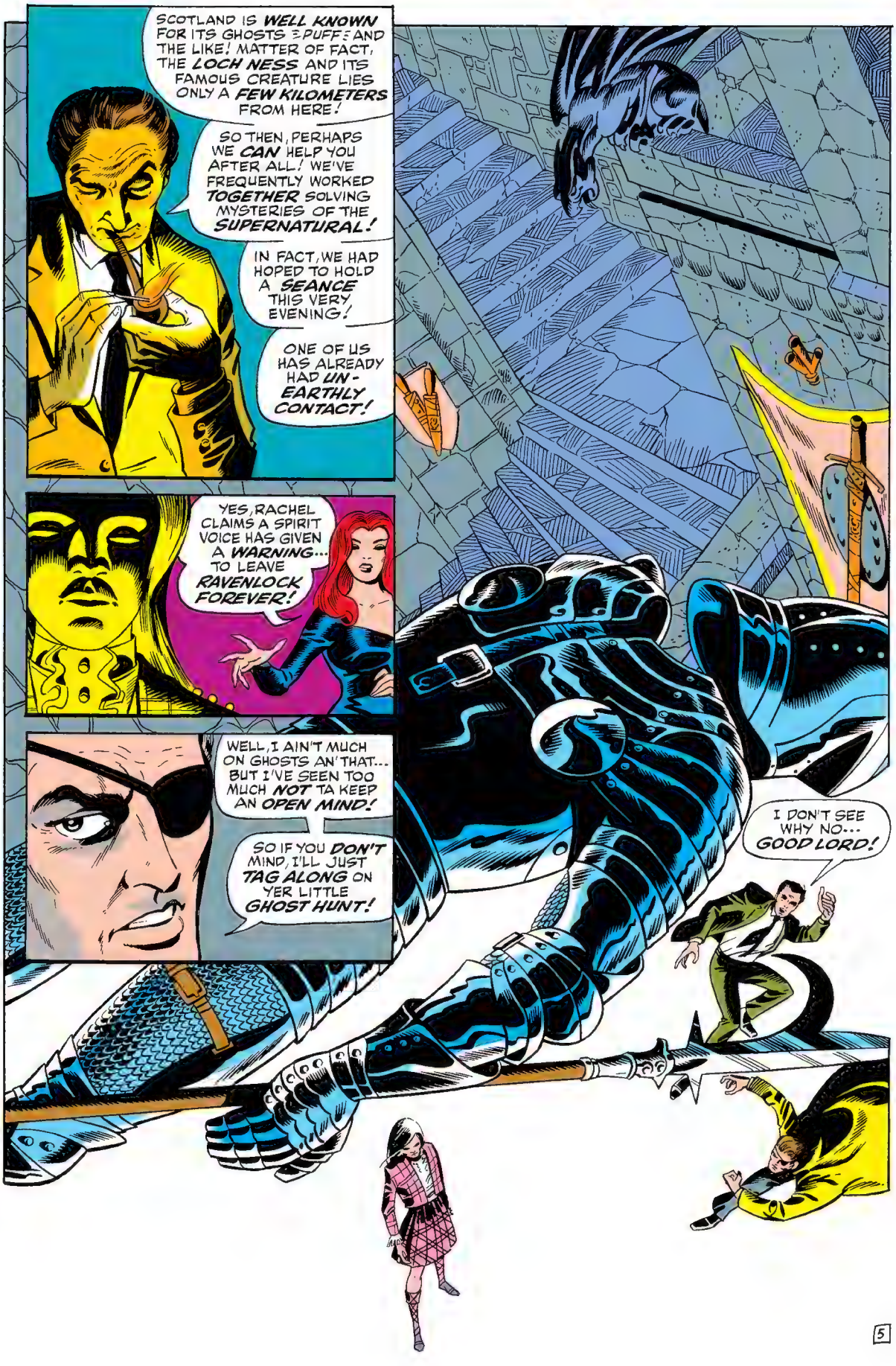
evil winds
OF TERROR STREAM,
AS IN SOME CRUEL UNENDING DREAM,
WHEN TH' MOON CASTS DARKE UPON TH'MOOR!
'TIS THE HOUND O'HELL WHOSE FIERY BREATH
BRYNGS NIGHTMARE DREAD, DISPAIRE AND DEATH,
WHEN TH' MOON CASTS DARKE UPON TH'MOOR!
BLACKE FIRE GLOWING 'TWIXT HIS TEETH,
HE SEEKS FRESH SOULS FOR ENDLESS SLEEP,
YET NONE DARE TRACK THAT PHANTOM FLEEING,
LEAPING LYKE SOME HELL-BOUND BEING,
WHEN TH'MOON CASTS DARKE UPON TH'MOOR!
B'WARE, THEN, TH'BRUTE BEAST'S FEARFUL THRUST,
FALL NOT PREY TO HIS VENGEFUL LUST,
WHEN TH'MOON CASTS DARKE UPON THE MOOR!
olde Scottish legend.

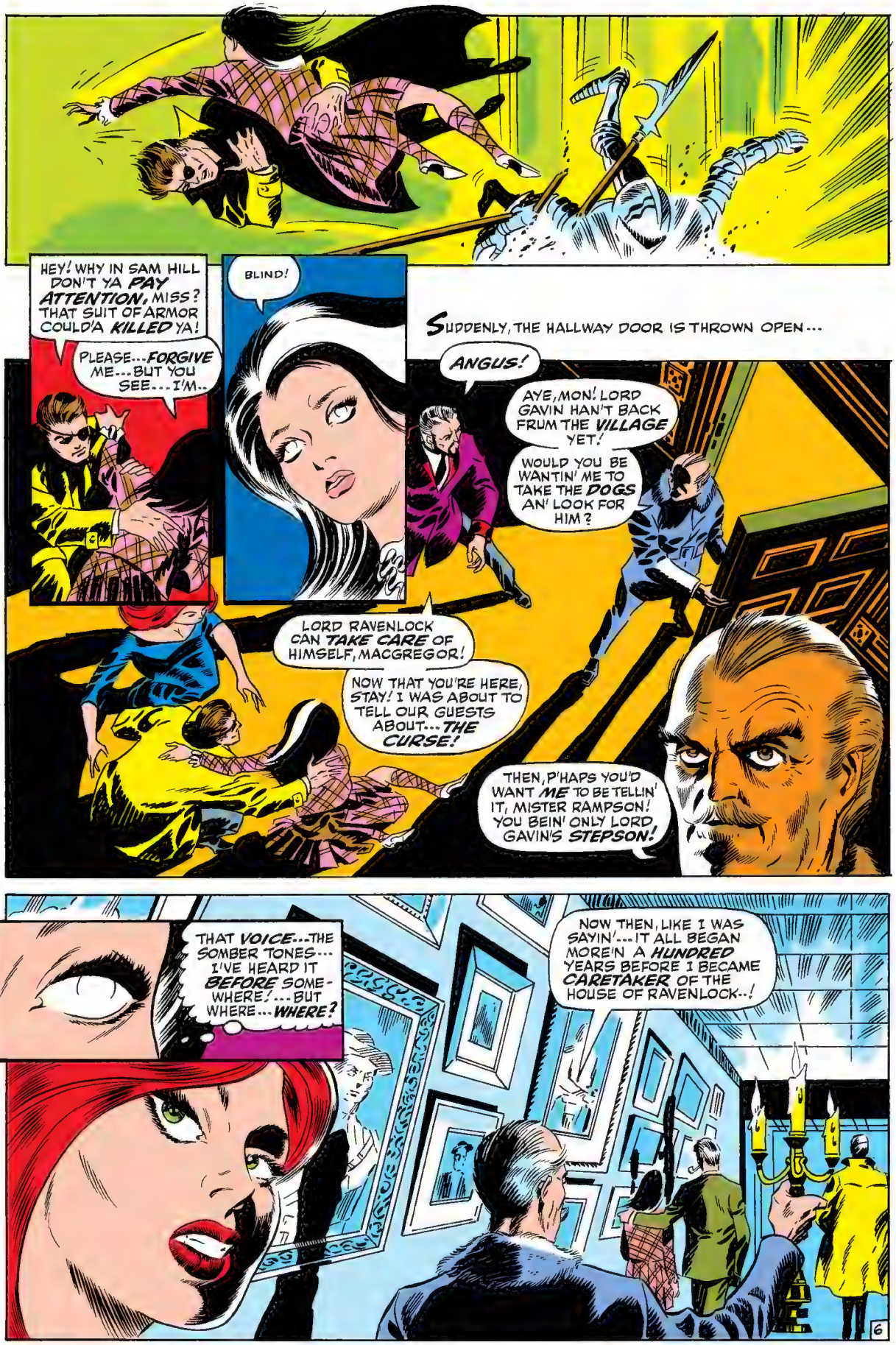
NICK FURY DEFIES THE DEVIL HIMSELF AS HE UNRAVELS THE LURKING FEAR ON THE MOORS OF ***CASTLE RAVENLOCK***
***STAN LEE***, EDITOR - ***JIM STERANKO***, WRITER and ILLUSTRATOR - ***DAN ADKINS***, INKER - ***SAM ROSEN***, LETTERER

DARK MOON RISE, HELL HOUND KILL!

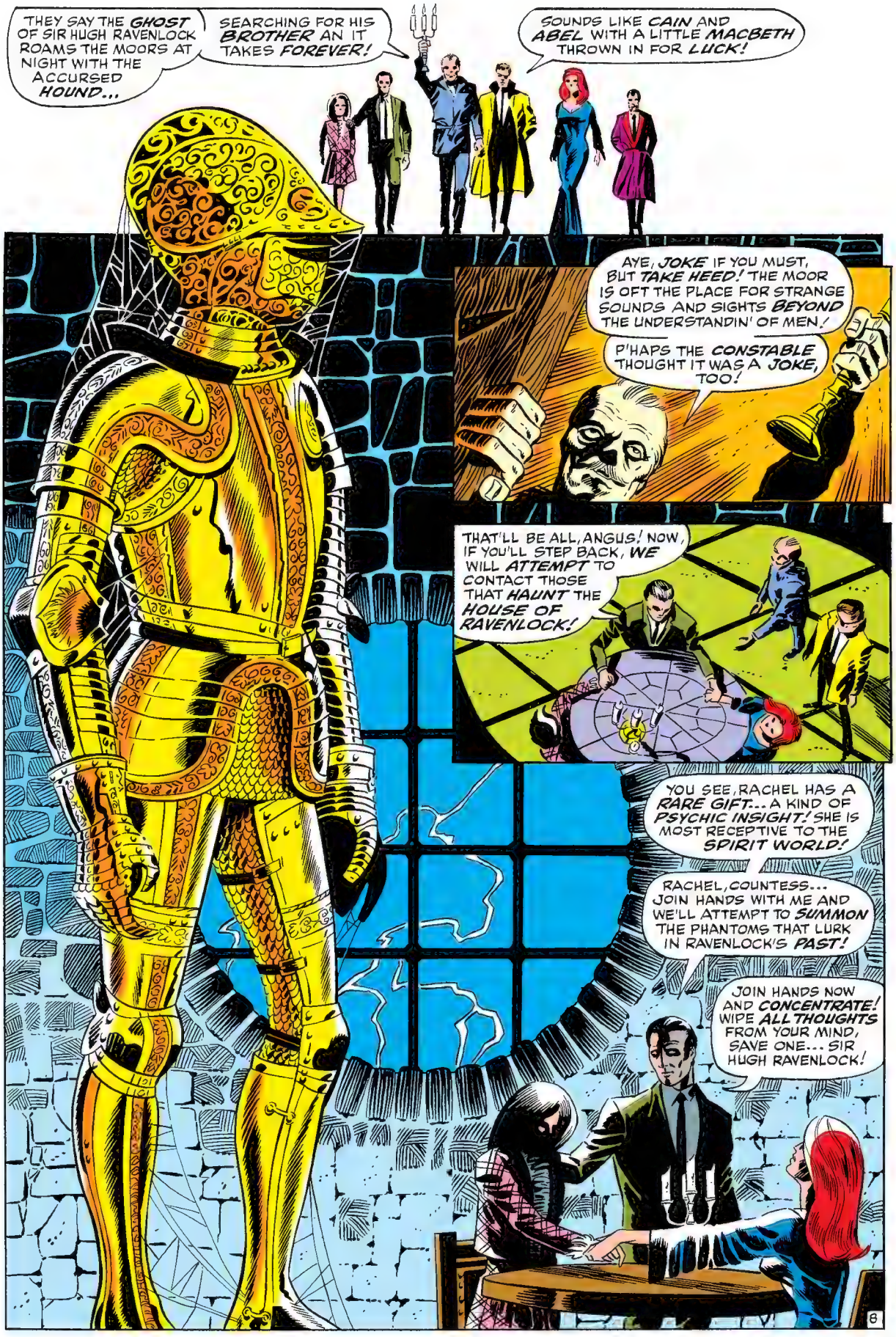


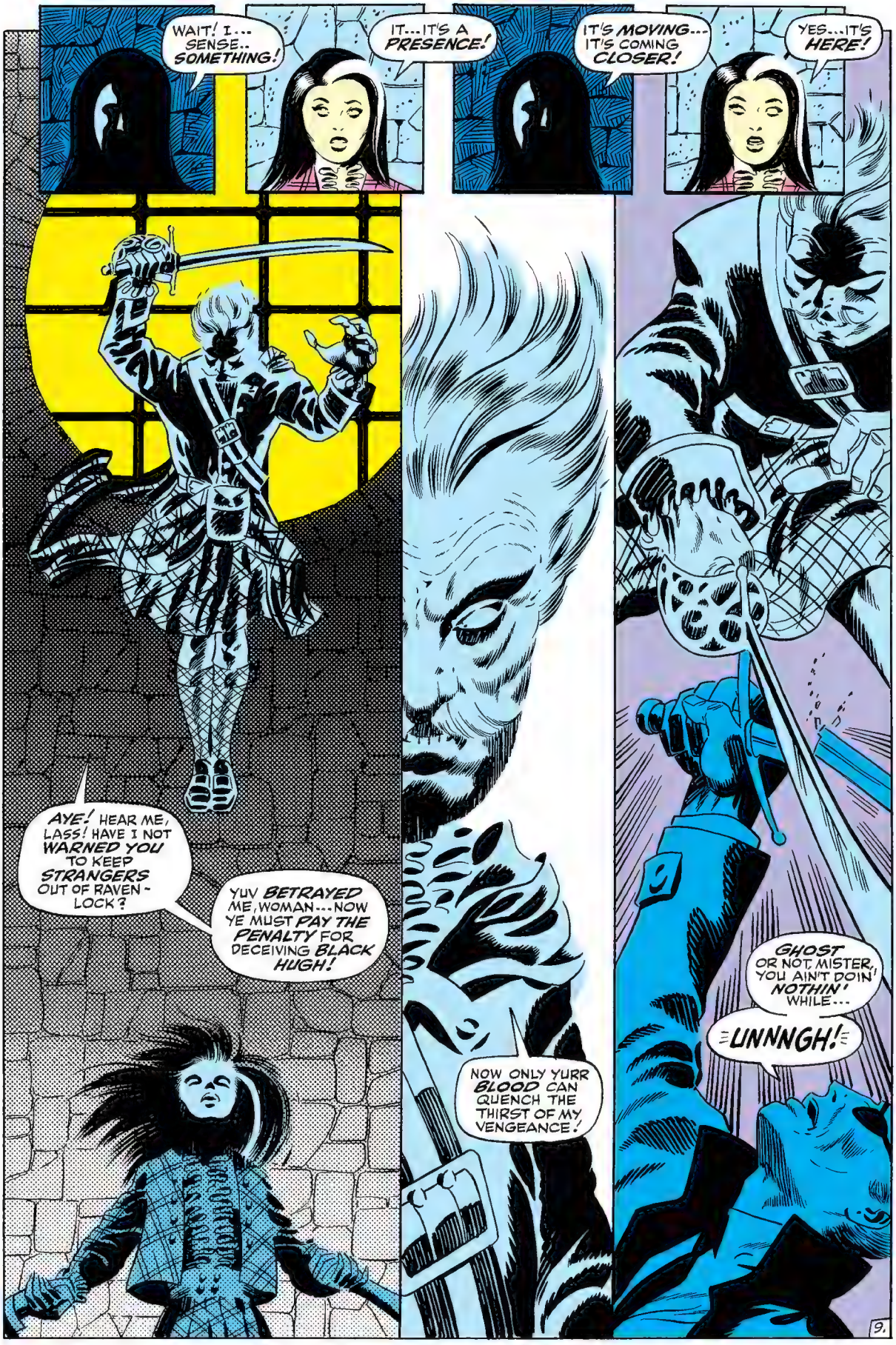
---AND THE NEXT DAY WE FOUND HIS BODY ON THE MOOR! BUT THERE WAS NOTHING WE COULD DO---NOTHING ANYONE COULD DO!
YOU SEE, MISTER FURY... ONE DOES NOT WALK ON THE MOORS ALONE ---AT NIGHT!
BUT, I'M AFRAID I FAIL TO UNDERSTAND YOUR INTEREST IN ALL THIS! ARE YOU A RELATIVE OF MISTER ASTOR?
ME AND KEN... WE WERE IN THE WAR TOGETHER... BLITZIN' HITLER'S GOONS!
HAVEN'T SEEN HIM IN YEARS... SUDDENLY, THIS CABLEGRAM SHOWS UP OUTTA THE BLUE!
I WAS HIS SARGE IN THE BIG ONE! NOW, THERE WAS SOMETHIN' HE HAD TA TELL ME... BUT WHAT?
I CROSSED THE OCEAN TA FIND OUT, MISTER... NOW, YA TELL ME HE'S...
HE WAS WARNED BY LORD RAVENLOCK NOT TO WANDER OVER THE MOOR AFTER DARK... BUT HE INSISTED!
HE WAS THE LOCAL CONSTABLE... HE KNEW THAT OFTEN THE UNEXPECTED HAPPENS HERE WHEN DARKNESS FALLS!
MEBBE SO, BUT I JUST CAN'T BUY THAT TALE YA PUT TO ME... THAT THING YOU SAY GOT HIM... WHAT'D YA CALL IT?
THE HELL-HOUND! PARDON US FOR THE INTRUSION, GENTLEMEN! PERHAPS, WE CAN HELP!
HUH! HOW CAN YA HELP A DEAD MAN?
THE DEAD CAN SOMETIMES HELP US! PERMIT ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF AND MY COLLEAGUES!
MY NAME IS MYCROFT... AND MY ASSOCIATES... COUNTESS CAUTION AND MY YOUNG WARD RACHEL!
WE'RE HERE AT THE REQUEST OF LORD GAVIN RAVENLOCK... HERE TO INVESTIGATE THE PHENOMENA AT THE CASTLE!
YOU MIGHT CALL US PSYCHIC DETECTIVES... GHOST HUNTERS, IF YOU WILL!


SCOTLAND IS WELL KNOWN FOR ITS GHOSTS =PUFF= AND THE LIKE! MATTER OF FACT, THE LOCH NESS AND ITS FAMOUS CREATURE LIES ONLY A FEW KILOMETERS FROM HERE!
SO THEN, PERHAPS WE CAN HELP YOU AFTER ALL! WE'VE FREQUENTLY WORKED TOGETHER SOLVING MYSTERIES OF THE SUPERNATURAL!
IN FACT, WE HAD HOPED TO HOLD A SEANCE THIS VERY EVENING!
ONE OF US HAS ALREADY HAD UN-EARTHLY CONTACT!
YES, RACHEL CLAIMS A SPIRIT VOICE HAS GIVEN A WARNING... TO LEAVE RAVENLOCK FOREVER!
WELL, I AIN'T MUCH ON GHOSTS AN' THAT... BUT I'VE SEEN TOO MUCH NOT TA KEEP AN OPEN MIND!
SO IF YOU DON'T MIND, I'LL JUST TAG ALONG ON YER LITTLE GHOST HUNT!
I DON'T SEE WHY NO... GOOD LORD!

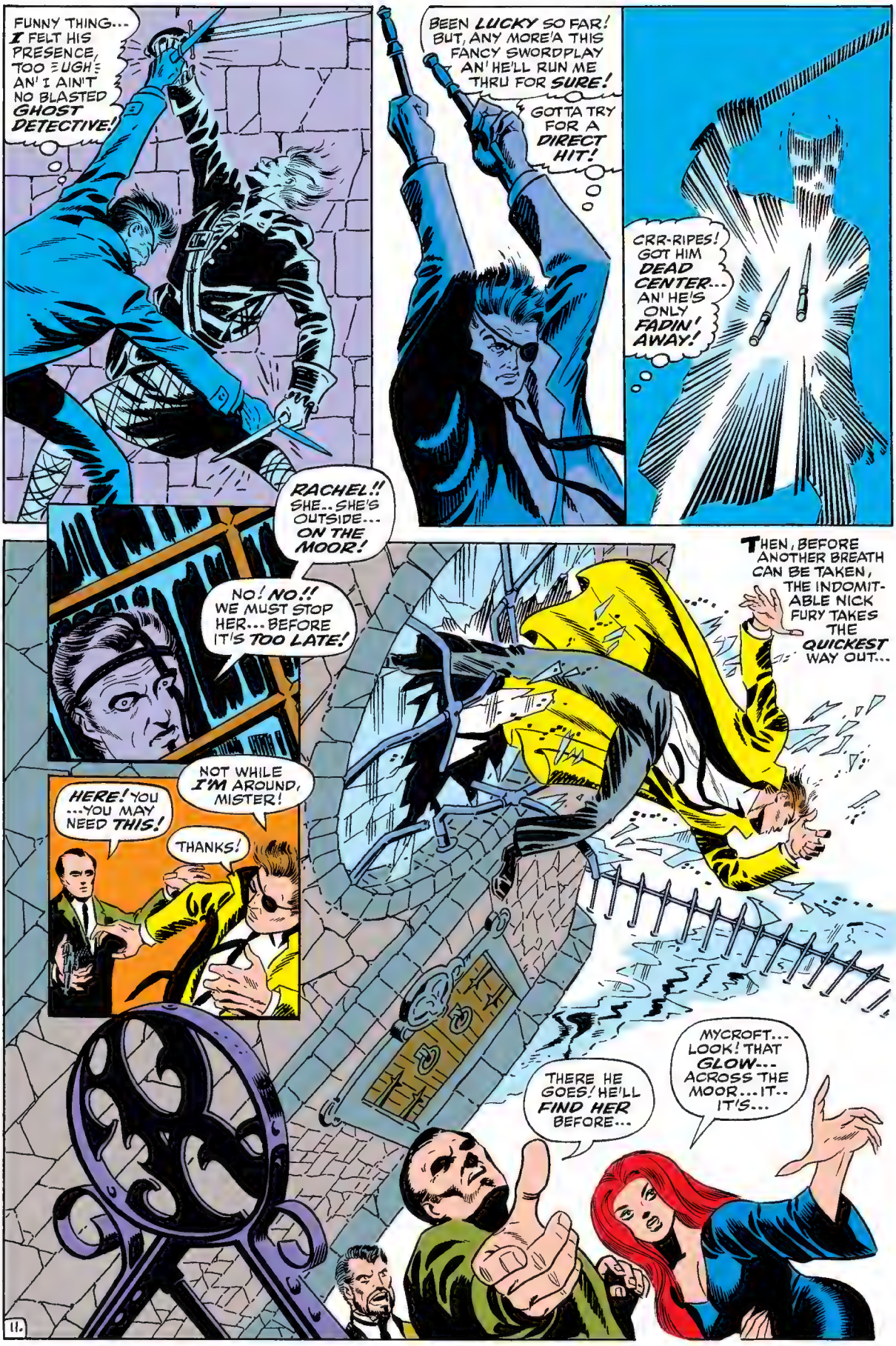

HEY! WHY IN SAM HILL DON'T YA PAY ATTENTION, MISS? THAT SUIT OF ARMOR COULD'A KILLED YA!
PLEASE...FORGIVE ME...BUT YOU SEE...I'M..
BLIND!
SUDDENLY, THE HALLWAY DOOR IS THROWN OPEN...
ANGUS!
AYE, MON! LORD GAVIN HAN'T BACK FRUM THE VILLAGE YET!
WOULD YOU BE WANTIN' ME TO TAKE THE DOGS AN' LOOK FOR HIM?
LORD RAVENLOCK CAN TAKE CARE OF HIMSELF, MACGREGOR!
NOW THAT YOU'RE HERE, STAY! I WAS ABOUT TO TELL OUR GUESTS ABOUT...THE CURSE!
THEN, P'HAPS YOU'D WANT ME TO BE TELLIN' IT, MISTER RAMPSON! YOU BEIN' ONLY LORD GAVIN'S STEPSON!
THAT VOICE...THE SOMBER TONES... I'VE HEARD IT BEFORE SOMEWHERE!...BUT WHERE...WHERE?
NOW THEN, LIKE I WAS SAYIN'...IT ALL BEGAN MORE'N A HUNDRED YEARS BEFORE I BECAME CARETAKER OF THE HOUSE OF RAVENLOCK--!
6

"THE CASTLE THEN BELONGED TO LORD HUGH RAVENLOCK...CALLED BLACK HUGH BY THOSE WHO KNEW HIM... AN' FEW DID, FUR HE WAS A VILE AND DEPRAVED MON! THERE WERE THOSE WHO CLAIMED HE WAS A DEVIL WORSHIPPER! AYE, THERE WAS MANY A MON WHO SUFFERED FRUM HIS CRUEL AND INHUMAN HAND...!"
"'TWAS LATE ONE NIGHT, THAT HUGH'S YOUNG BRIDE WAS TAKEN AWAY BY HIS BROTHER, FOR SHE COULD NO LONGER BEAR HIS BRUTISH WAYS! WHEN BLACK HUGH DISCOVERED SHE WAS GONE, HE FLEW INTO A FRENZY LIKE A RAVIN' LUNATIC AND SWORE VENGEANCE ON BOTH OF THEM! THEN, WITH HIS GIANT HOUND, PURR-SUED THEM ACROSS THE MOORS IN AN UNCONTROLLABLE RAGE OF BLOOD LUST..!"
"THE LEGEND GOES ON TA SAY THAT THE PAIR WAS SOON OVERTAKEN AN' WHILE THE BEAST ATTACKED THE WOMAN, BLACK HUGH WAS KILLED BY HIS BROTHER! IT WAS SAID HE DROWNED IN THE LOCH FOR HE WAS NEVER SEEN AGAIN... A'COURSE IT'S JUST A TALE...!"


THEY SAY THE GHOST OF SIR HUGH RAVENLOCK ROAMS THE MOORS AT NIGHT WITH THE ACCURSED HOUND...
SEARCHING FOR HIS BROTHER AN IT TAKES FOREVER!
SOUNDS LIKE CAIN AND ABEL WITH A LITTLE MACBETH THROWN IN FOR LUCK!
AYE, JOKE IF YOU MUST, BUT TAKE HEED! THE MOOR IS OFT THE PLACE FOR STRANGE SOUNDS AND SIGHTS BEYOND THE UNDERSTANDIN' OF MEN!
P'HAPS THE CONSTABLE THOUGHT IT WAS A JOKE, TOO!
THAT'LL BE ALL, ANGUS! NOW, IF YOU'LL STEP BACK, WE WILL ATTEMPT TO CONTACT THOSE THAT HAUNT THE HOUSE OF RAVENLOCK!
YOU SEE, RACHEL HAS A RARE GIFT... A KIND OF PSYCHIC INSIGHT! SHE IS MOST RECEPTIVE TO THE SPIRIT WORLD!
RACHEL, COUNTESS... JOIN HANDS WITH ME AND WE'LL ATTEMPT TO SUMMON THE PHANTOMS THAT LURK IN RAVENLOCK'S PAST!
JOIN HANDS NOW AND CONCENTRATE! WIPE ALL THOUGHTS FROM YOUR MIND, SAVE ONE... SIR HUGH RAVENLOCK!
8


WAIT! I... SENSE.. SOMETHING!
IT...IT'S A PRESENCE!
IT'S MOVING... IT'S COMING CLOSER!
YES...IT'S HERE!
AYE! HEAR ME, LASS! HAVE I NOT WARNED YOU TO KEEP STRANGERS OUT OF RAVEN-LOCK?
YUV BETRAYED ME, WOMAN... NOW YE MUST PAY THE PENALTY FOR DECEIVING BLACK HUGH!
NOW ONLY YURR BLOOD CAN QUENCH THE THIRST OF MY VENGEANCE!
GHOST OR NOT, MISTER, YOU AIN'T DOIN' NOTHIN' WHILE...
=UNNNGH!=

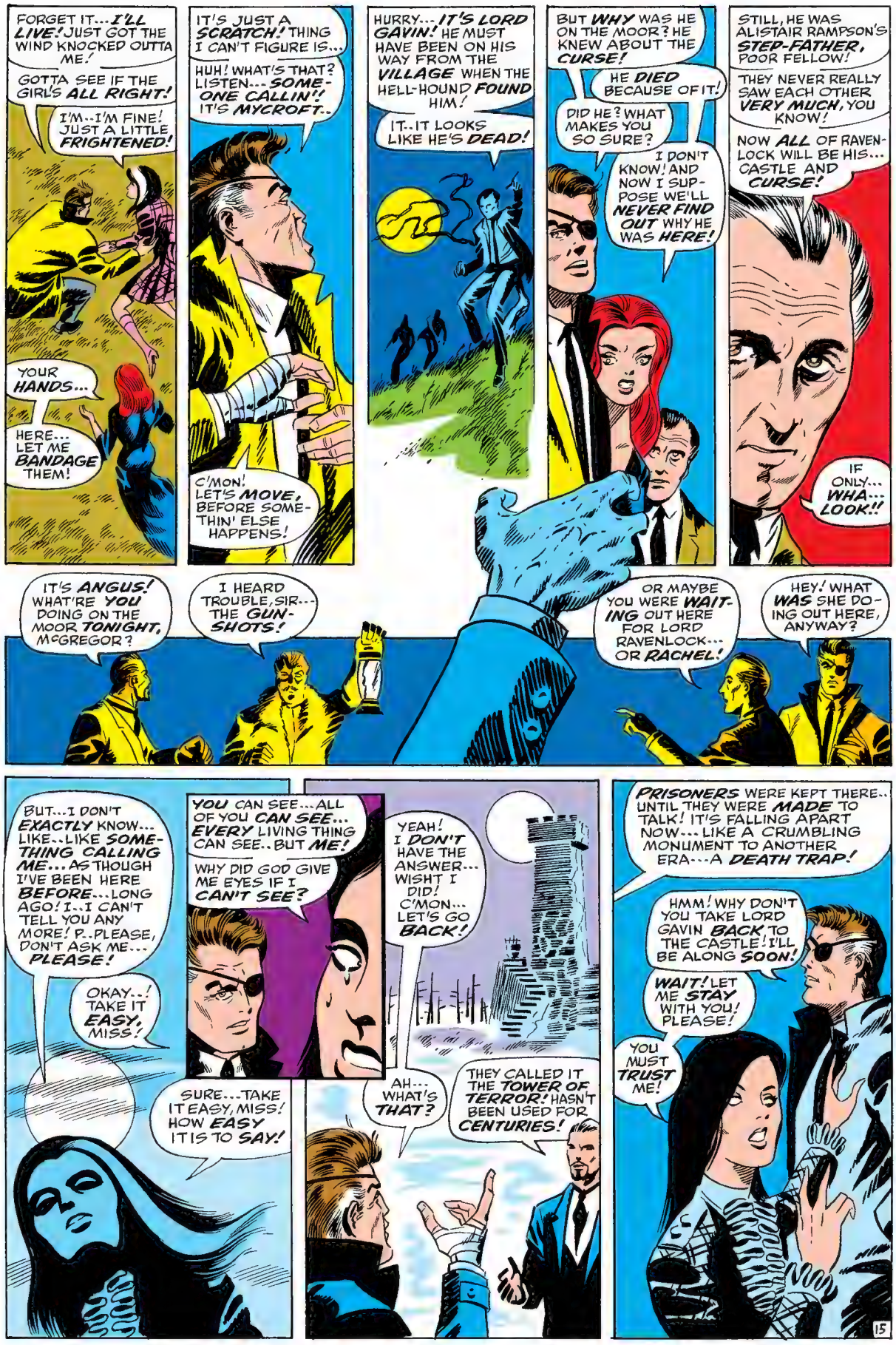
THE GIRL... SHE WAS RIGHT... IT'S HUGH RAVENLOCK... OR IS IT?
YURR A FOOL, STRANGER! NO MON DRAWS A BLADE AGAINST BLACK HUGH...
AND LIVES TO TELL ABOUT IT!
GOTTA DO SOMETHIN' QUICK... 'FORE THAT SCHIAVONA CUTS ME IN TWO!
DIRKS... THEY'LL HAVE TA DO!
UNGHH! HE PACKS A LOT OF PUNCH FOR A SPOOK! BEST I CAN HOPE TA DO IS PARRY... BUT FOR HOW LONG?
IT'S LIKE A NIGHTMARE! THE LIGHTNING FLASHES OF THE STORM... JUST GIVIN' ME GLIMPSES OF HIM!
SOONER OR LATER, I'M GONNA WIND UP ON THE END OF THAT STEEL!

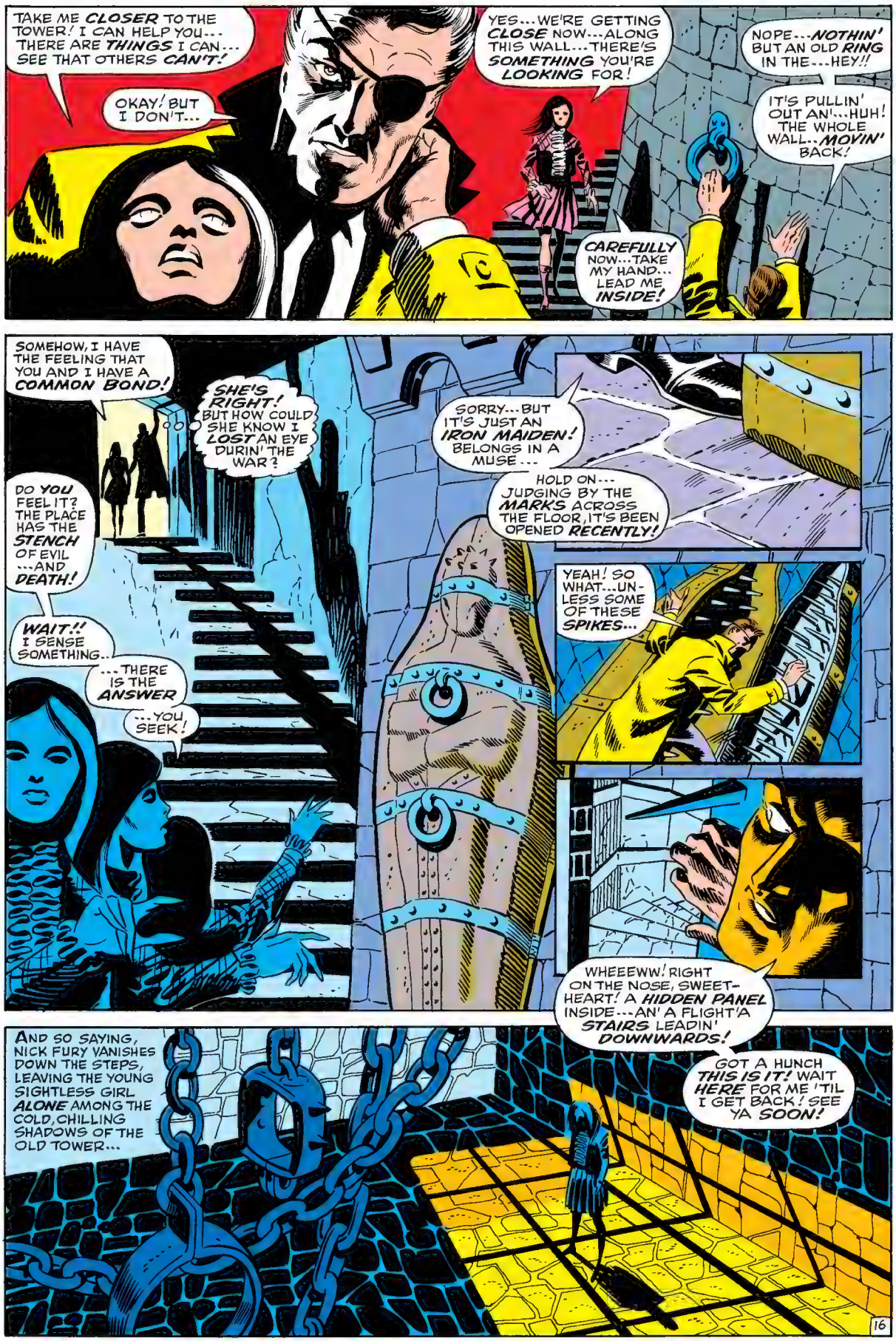

FUNNY THING... I FELT HIS PRESENCE, TOO = UGH = AN' I AIN'T NO BLASTED GHOST DETECTIVE!
BEEN LUCKY SO FAR! BUT, ANY MORE'A THIS FANCY SWORDPLAY AN' HE'LL RUN ME THRU FOR SURE!
GOTTA TRY FOR A DIRECT HIT!
CRR-RIPES! GOT HIM DEAD CENTER... AN' HE'S ONLY FADIN' AWAY!
RACHEL!! SHE.. SHE'S OUTSIDE... ON THE MOOR!
NO! NO!! WE MUST STOP HER... BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!
THEN, BEFORE ANOTHER BREATH CAN BE TAKEN, THE INDOMITABLE NICK FURY TAKES THE QUICKEST WAY OUT...
HERE! YOU ...YOU MAY NEED THIS!
NOT WHILE I'M AROUND, MISTER!
THANKS!
THERE HE GOES! HE'LL FIND HER BEFORE...
MYCROFT... LOOK! THAT GLOW... ACROSS THE MOOR... IT.. IT'S...

# THE HELL HOUND OF RAVENLOCK

SUDDENLY, THE TRIO WITNESS A HEART-STOPPING VISION ACROSS THE MISTY EXPANSE OF THE MOOR---LEAPING AS IF FROM HELL ITSELF, THE HULKING ***PHANTOM*** CHARGES TO ***CLAIM YET ANOTHER*** VICTIM OF THE ***ANCIENT CURSE***, BRISTLING WITH ***UNEARTHLY VENGEANCE***, GIANT SNAPPING JAWS ISSUING FORTH A MARROW-CHILLING SNARL FROM THE SATANIC DEPTHS OF ITS THROAT, LIKE THE WAIL OF A ***THOUSAND HELPLESS SOULS***---WHILE THE INDESTRUCTIBLE AGENT OF SHIELD RACES TO SAVE THE LIFE OF THE MYSTERIOUS, SIGHTLESS GIRL NAMED ***RACHEL!***

:UNNGHHH!: THE HOUND...SOLID AS A ROCK...
...AND BIG AS A HORSE! I STOPPED HIM FROM GETTIN' THE GIRL...
BUT, CAN I KEEP HIM FROM TEARIN' ME TA PIECES?
HIS JAWS... BUSTIN' THE BONES IN MY ARM...
GOTTA DO SOMETHIN'... BEFORE HE RIPS MY THROAT OUT!
RAMPSON...HE'LL BE KILLED! WE'VE GOT TO HELP HIM...THAT..THAT THING...FORCING HIM TO THE GROUND!
NO...LOOK! HE'S USING THE GUN!
WHAT THE...BLASTED SLUGS DON'T STOP HIM! THEY AIN'T EVEN SLOWIN' HIM DOWN!
BUT THAT CAN'T BE... IT CAN'T BE!
YEAH...HOW DO YA KILL A GHOST? I'M FIRING RIGHT THRU HIM...NOT EVEN HURTIN' HIM!
HOW DO YA KILL A GHOST? HOW...?
HOW?
HOW?
HE..HE'S SAVED RACHEL... BUT NOW...
LOOK, IT'S ATTACKING... AGAIN...
WE MUST HELP HIM...WE MUST DRIVE THE BEAST OFF...
QUICKLY! HIS LIFE DEPENDS ON IT!
THIS IS ALL YOUR DOING, MYCROFT! NONE OF THIS WOULD HAVE HAPPENED IF YOU AND YOUR GHOST CREW HAD STAYED AWAY FROM RAVEN-LOCK!
NOT NOW, RAMPSON! NOT NOW!
THE HELL-HOUND...IT'S GONE! LIKE A SPECTRE...JUST VANISHED!
BUT...ARE WE IN TIME? HE'S NOT MOVING ...COULD IT BE THAT...
=CHOKE=
GOOD LORD! HIS HANDS...!

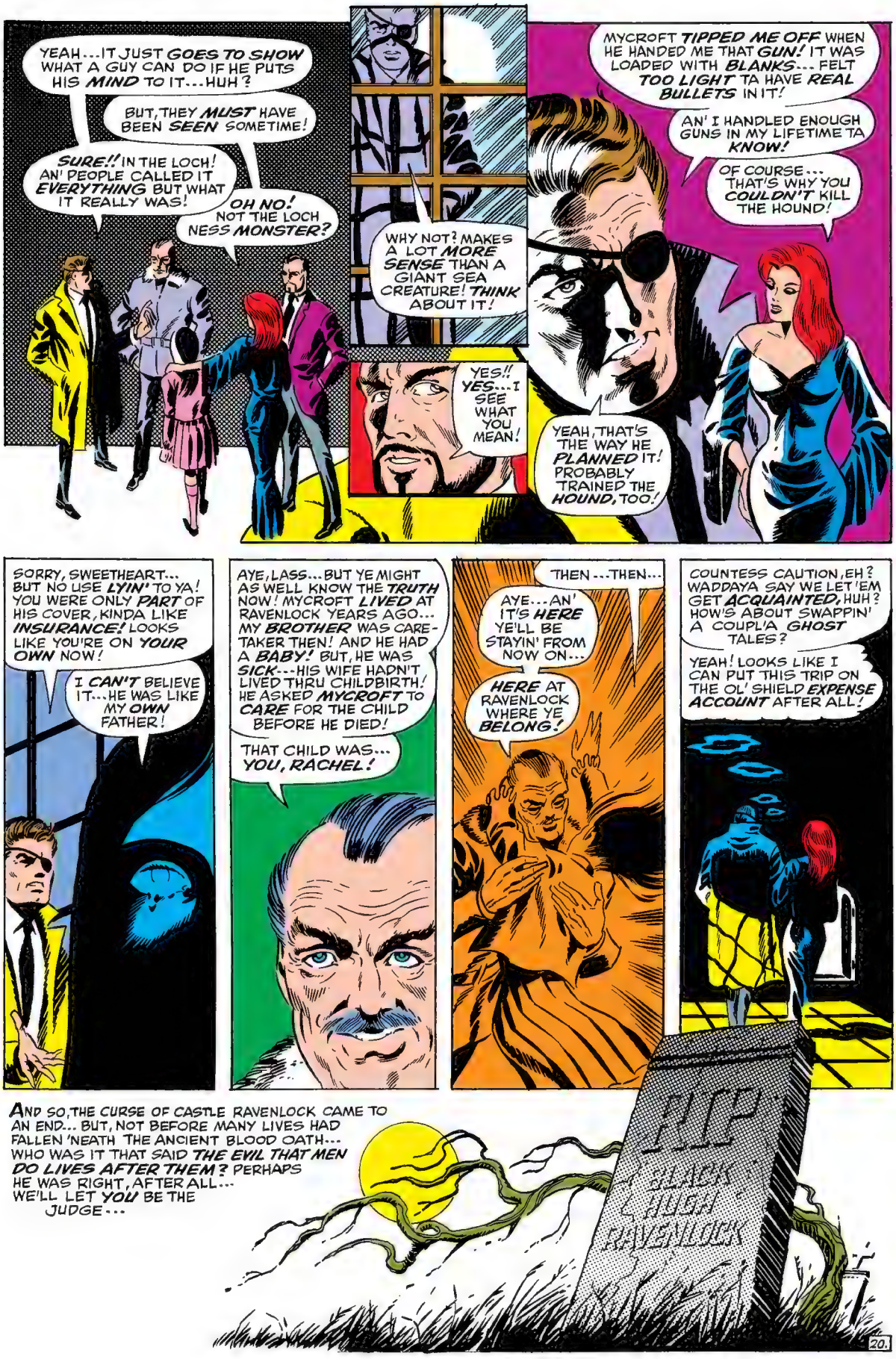

FORGET IT... I'LL LIVE! JUST GOT THE WIND KNOCKED OUTTA ME!
GOTTA SEE IF THE GIRL'S ALL RIGHT!
I'M--I'M FINE! JUST A LITTLE FRIGHTENED!
YOUR HANDS...
HERE... LET ME BANDAGE THEM!
IT'S JUST A SCRATCH! THING I CAN'T FIGURE IS...
HUH! WHAT'S THAT? LISTEN--- SOMEONE CALLIN'! IT'S MYCROFT--
C'MON! LET'S MOVE, BEFORE SOMETHIN' ELSE HAPPENS!
HURRY--- IT'S LORD GAVIN! HE MUST HAVE BEEN ON HIS WAY FROM THE VILLAGE WHEN THE HELL-HOUND FOUND HIM!
IT--IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S DEAD!
BUT WHY WAS HE ON THE MOOR? HE KNEW ABOUT THE CURSE!
HE DIED BECAUSE OF IT!
DID HE? WHAT MAKES YOU SO SURE?
I DON'T KNOW! AND NOW I SUPPOSE WE'LL NEVER FIND OUT WHY HE WAS HERE!
STILL, HE WAS ALISTAIR RAMPSON'S STEP-FATHER, POOR FELLOW!
THEY NEVER REALLY SAW EACH OTHER VERY MUCH, YOU KNOW!
NOW ALL OF RAVENLOCK WILL BE HIS... CASTLE AND CURSE!
IF ONLY... WHA--- LOOK!!
IT'S ANGUS! WHAT'RE YOU DOING ON THE MOOR TONIGHT, McGREGOR?
I HEARD TROUBLE, SIR--- THE GUNSHOTS!
OR MAYBE YOU WERE WAITING OUT HERE FOR LORD RAVENLOCK--- OR RACHEL!
HEY! WHAT WAS SHE DOING OUT HERE, ANYWAY?
BUT...I DON'T EXACTLY KNOW... LIKE..LIKE SOMETHING CALLING ME... AS THOUGH I'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE... LONG AGO! I..I CAN'T TELL YOU ANY MORE! P..PLEASE, DON'T ASK ME... PLEASE!
OKAY..! TAKE IT EASY, MISS!
SURE...TAKE IT EASY, MISS! HOW EASY IT IS TO SAY!
YOU CAN SEE...ALL OF YOU CAN SEE... EVERY LIVING THING CAN SEE..BUT ME!
WHY DID GOD GIVE ME EYES IF I CAN'T SEE?
YEAH! I DON'T HAVE THE ANSWER... WISHT I DID! C'MON... LET'S GO BACK!
AH... WHAT'S THAT?
THEY CALLED IT THE TOWER OF TERROR! HASN'T BEEN USED FOR CENTURIES!
PRISONERS WERE KEPT THERE.. UNTIL THEY WERE MADE TO TALK! IT'S FALLING APART NOW--- LIKE A CRUMBLING MONUMENT TO ANOTHER ERA---A DEATH TRAP!
HMM! WHY DON'T YOU TAKE LORD GAVIN BACK TO THE CASTLE! I'LL BE ALONG SOON!
WAIT! LET ME STAY WITH YOU! PLEASE!
YOU MUST TRUST ME!
15

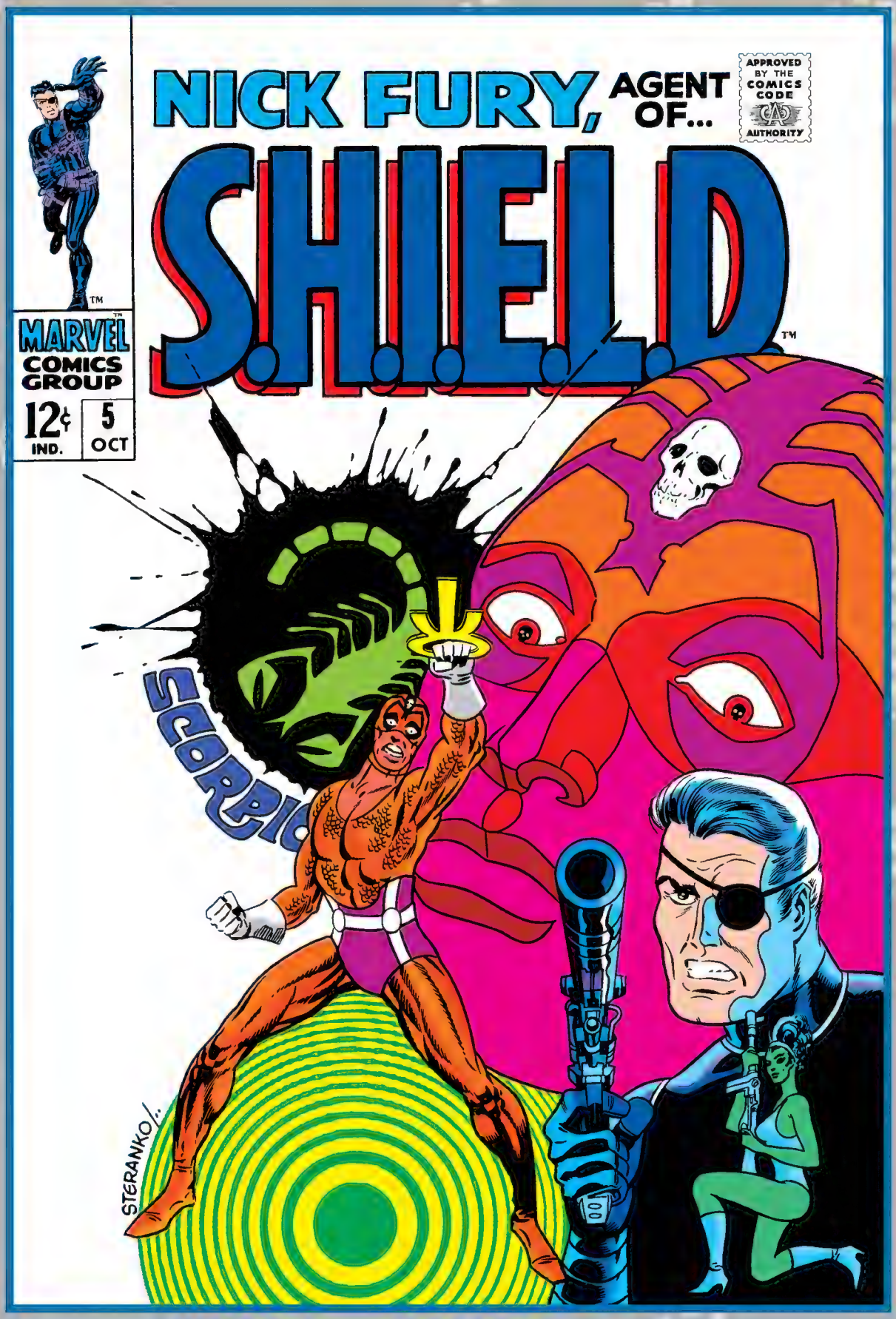

TAKE ME CLOSER TO THE TOWER! I CAN HELP YOU... THERE ARE THINGS I CAN... SEE THAT OTHERS CAN'T!
OKAY! BUT I DON'T...
YES...WE'RE GETTING CLOSE NOW...ALONG THIS WALL...THERE'S SOMETHING YOU'RE LOOKING FOR!
CAREFULLY NOW...TAKE MY HAND... LEAD ME INSIDE!
NOPE...NOTHIN' BUT AN OLD RING IN THE...HEY!!
IT'S PULLIN' OUT AN'...HUH! THE WHOLE WALL...MOVIN' BACK!
SOMEHOW, I HAVE THE FEELING THAT YOU AND I HAVE A COMMON BOND!
SHE'S RIGHT! BUT HOW COULD SHE KNOW I LOST AN EYE DURIN' THE WAR?
DO YOU FEEL IT? THE PLACE HAS THE STENCH OF EVIL ...AND DEATH!
WAIT!! I SENSE SOMETHING..
...THERE IS THE ANSWER
...YOU SEEK!
SORRY...BUT IT'S JUST AN IRON MAIDEN! BELONGS IN A MUSE...
HOLD ON... JUDGING BY THE MARKS ACROSS THE FLOOR, IT'S BEEN OPENED RECENTLY!
YEAH! SO WHAT...UNLESS SOME OF THESE SPIKES...
WHEEEWW! RIGHT ON THE NOSE, SWEETHEART! A HIDDEN PANEL INSIDE...AN' A FLIGHT'A STAIRS LEADIN' DOWNWARDS!
GOT A HUNCH THIS IS IT! WAIT HERE FOR ME 'TIL I GET BACK! SEE YA SOON!
AND SO SAYING, NICK FURY VANISHES DOWN THE STEPS, LEAVING THE YOUNG SIGHTLESS GIRL ALONE AMONG THE COLD, CHILLING SHADOWS OF THE OLD TOWER...

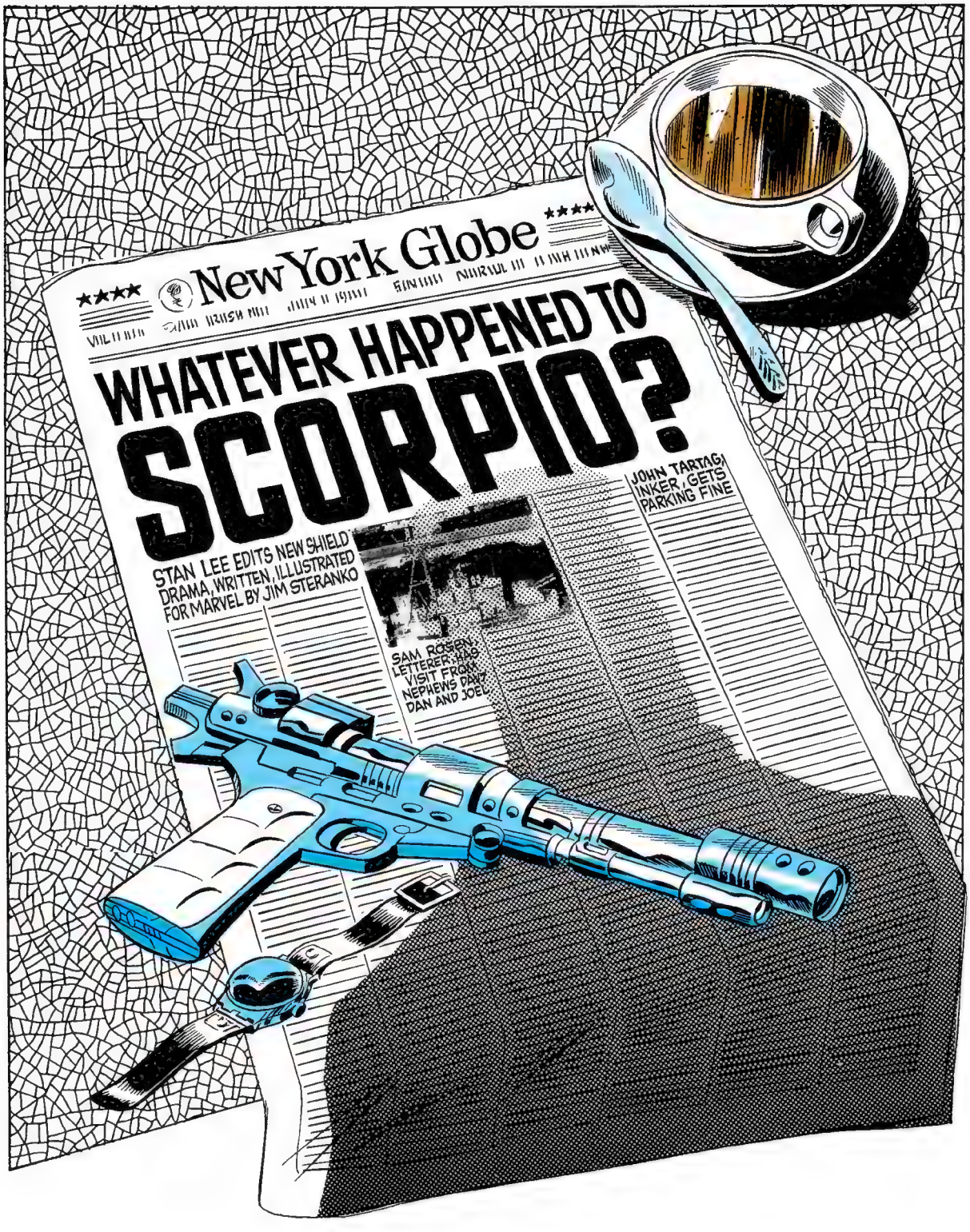
WAITING...WAITING..
WAITING THRU AN ETERNITY OF MINUTES ...WAITING IN THE HEAVY BROODING DARKNESS...YET HARDLY AS DARK, BY COMPARISON, TO THE GIRL'S OWN MIDNIGHT WORLD OF UNENDING BLACKNESS...
SUDDENLY, THE BLIND GIRL BECOMES AWARE OF A SHIFTING AMONG THE SHADOWS...HER SIGHTLESS EYES PERCEIVE A FURTIVE MOVEMENT IN THE ROOM...
A MOVEMENT CREEPING EVER CLOSER... WHILE THE OBJECT OF ITS PURSUIT CAN ONLY WAIT...
YOU LITTLE FOOL!
NOW, THERE'S NO OTHER WAY...YOU MUST DIE!
DON'T BET ON IT, MISTER!
IF YOU HURT THAT GIRL, I'LL KILL YA WITH MY BARE HANDS!
RACHEL! ARE YOU OKAY... RACHEL!
FURY... I'M ALL RIGHT... NOW!
BUT IN A MOMENT, IT WILL BE TOO LATE FOR BOTH OF YOU!
THEN, AT THE SIGNAL, THE HOUND OF HELL APPEARS, SEEMINGLY FROM NOWHERE... HIS CLAWS CLATTERING ACROSS THE STONE FLOOR IN AN UNEARTHLY STACCATO... GIVING FURY SPLIT-SECOND WARNING OF APPROACHING DEATH...
WHHEEEEEEEEEE
17

YEAH, THE HOUND JUMPED UP AGAINST THE DOOR... SLAMMIN' IT CLOSED! BUT I'D JAMMED THE TRICK SPIKE THAT OPENED THE PANEL TO THE CAVERNS BELOW!
IT ONLY TOOK A SECOND TA GRAB THE GIRL AN' BOLT THE TOWER DOOR... LOCKIN' THE HOUND INSIDE... FOREVER!
THEN, WE CAME BACK HERE TO THE CASTLE!
I AIN'T NO SHERLOCK HOLMES, BUT I HAD IT FIGURED PRETTY CLOSE! SO DID KEN ASTOR! HE'D DISCOVERED A FANTASTIC PLOT BEHIND THE HELL-HOUND MURDERS! HE WIRED ME 'CAUSE... WELL, LET'S SAY I HAVE A SPECIAL INTEREST IN THESE THINGS!
I CAN'T SAY IF THERE REALLY ARE SPOOKS, BUT THAT LITTLE SCUFFLE TONIGHT CONVINCED ME THAT WAS NO GHOST I WAS FIGHT-IN'! NOPE! IT WASN'T BLACK HUGH, BUT SIR GAVIN RAVENLOCK! SORRY, RAMPSON!
WHEN WE FOUND HIM DEAD ON THE MOOR, I WAS SURE OF IT! YA SEE, HE WAS KILLED TO KEEP HIS MOUTH SHUT... AN' TO THROW US OFF THE TRACK!
HE TRIED TO SCARE US OFF... MAYBE TO KILL THE GIRL, TOO! ONLY HE WASN'T PLANNIN' ON ME! I GOT A LITTLE SUSPICIOUS WHEN I SAW LORD GAVIN'S PORTRAIT... HE WAS A RINGER FOR THE GHOST OF HUGH RAVENLOCK!
ALSO, HE WAS THE ONLY ONE MISS-ING, 'SIDES ANGUS, WHO KNEW THE CASTLE!
CASTLES ARE FULL OF SECRET PASSAGEWAYS! THAT'S HOW HE PULLED THE VANISHING ACT!
HE PROBABLY GOT THAT WEIRD GHOST EFFECT BY BOMBARDING HIS CLOTHES WITH FLUORESCENT DYES THAT GLOWED UNDER SOME SORT OF BLACK LIGHT RIG! SAME GOES FOR THE HOUND!
'COURSE ALLISTAIR RAMPSON WAS HIS STEPSON! EVEN SO, HE WAS SKEPTICAL OF THE KILLINGS! HE WAS SUSPECTING THE TRUTH!
AN' HE PROBABLY WOULDA BEEN THE NEXT VICTIM!
RRRRRRRRRUUUUUUUUMMMMMM

"HEAR THAT ***RUMBLIN'?***... IN A ***MINUTE,*** THE WHOLE PLACE IS GONNA GET SHOOK UP! YA SEE, THAT LITTLE ***TOWER*** IN YUR BACK YARD AIN'T AS ***INNOCENT*** AS IT LOOKS! THAT PANEL I OPENED, LED TO A DEEP ***UNDERGROUND CHAMBER!*** I FOLLOWED THE ***WINDING STAIRS*** DOWN TILL I RAN SMACK INTO A SCENE THAT NEARLY ***KNOCKED ME*** RIGHT ON MY CAN...! A COUPLA ***DOZEN MEN*** AN' A FULL-SIZE ***SUB-MARINE! NO,*** I AIN'T PUTTIN' YOU ON... I COULD HARDLY ***BELIEVE IT MYSELF!*** JUST BELOW ME WAS WHAT LOOKED LIKE A ***RECORD ROOM***... I SLIPPED INTO IT TO SEE IF I COULD GET A ***CLUE*** TO THE SET-UP AN' FOUND A SET OF ***LOG BOOKS!*** THEN, THE PUZZLE STARTED ***FALLIN' INTO PLACE!*** BELIEVE IT OR NOT, THE REAL VILLAIN WAS ***MYCROFT!*** OR RATHER, ***MILES VON CROFF***... EX-NAZI ***U-BOAT COMMANDER,*** WHO DISCOVERED THE ***SECRET OF LOCH NESS*** WITH ITS UNDER-WATER ***ENTRANCES*** AND CHANNELS! HE HOLED UP HERE ***AFTER*** THE WAR AN' MADE AN ***ALLIANCE*** WITH ***LORD GAVIN!*** HE TRADED HIS SAFETY ***FOR TREASURE*** AND WITH HIS CREW AND THE SUB, HE BECAME A ***MODERN DAY PIRATE***... RAIDIN' OCEAN-GOING SHIPS, THEN ***SINKING THEM!*** THE SPOOK THING WAS ONLY A ***COVER***...GAVE HIM A CHANCE TO MOVE AROUND ***WITHOUT*** ANY QUESTIONS ASKED! BUT THAT'S WHERE HIS PLAN GOT ***HUNG UP***... WITH ***RACHEL!*** SHE WAS HIS WARD, BUT SHE ***DIDN'T KNOW*** ABOUT THIS DEAL! HE TOLD US ABOUT HER ***PSYCHIC TALENT***...AN' HE WAS ***RIGHT!*** TAKE IT FROM ME, SHE'S GOT SOME KINDA ***SIXTH SENSE*** THAT DON'T QUIT! THING IS, HE GOT ***SCARED*** SHE'D FIND OUT HIS SECRET... SO HE PLANNED TA ***KILL*** HER, TOO! YEAH, IT WAS A NEAT LITTLE ***PACKAGE,*** BUT I GOT A FUNNY ***FEELIN'*** IT'S ***ALL OVER!*** THAT ***RUMBLIN'***...YA SEE, BEFORE I LEFT, I CROSSED A COUPLA THEIR FUEL MIXTURE LINES AN' TURNED THE SUB INTO A ***FLOATIN' BOMB!*** SOUNDS LIKE SOME POOR SLOB ALREADY PUNCHED THE ***STARTER BUTTON!*** A' COURSE, THAT MEANS THE ***TOWER, MYCROFT, HELL-HOUND*** AN' ALL MUST'A ***FELL IN*** ON THAT UNDERGROUND BASE!"

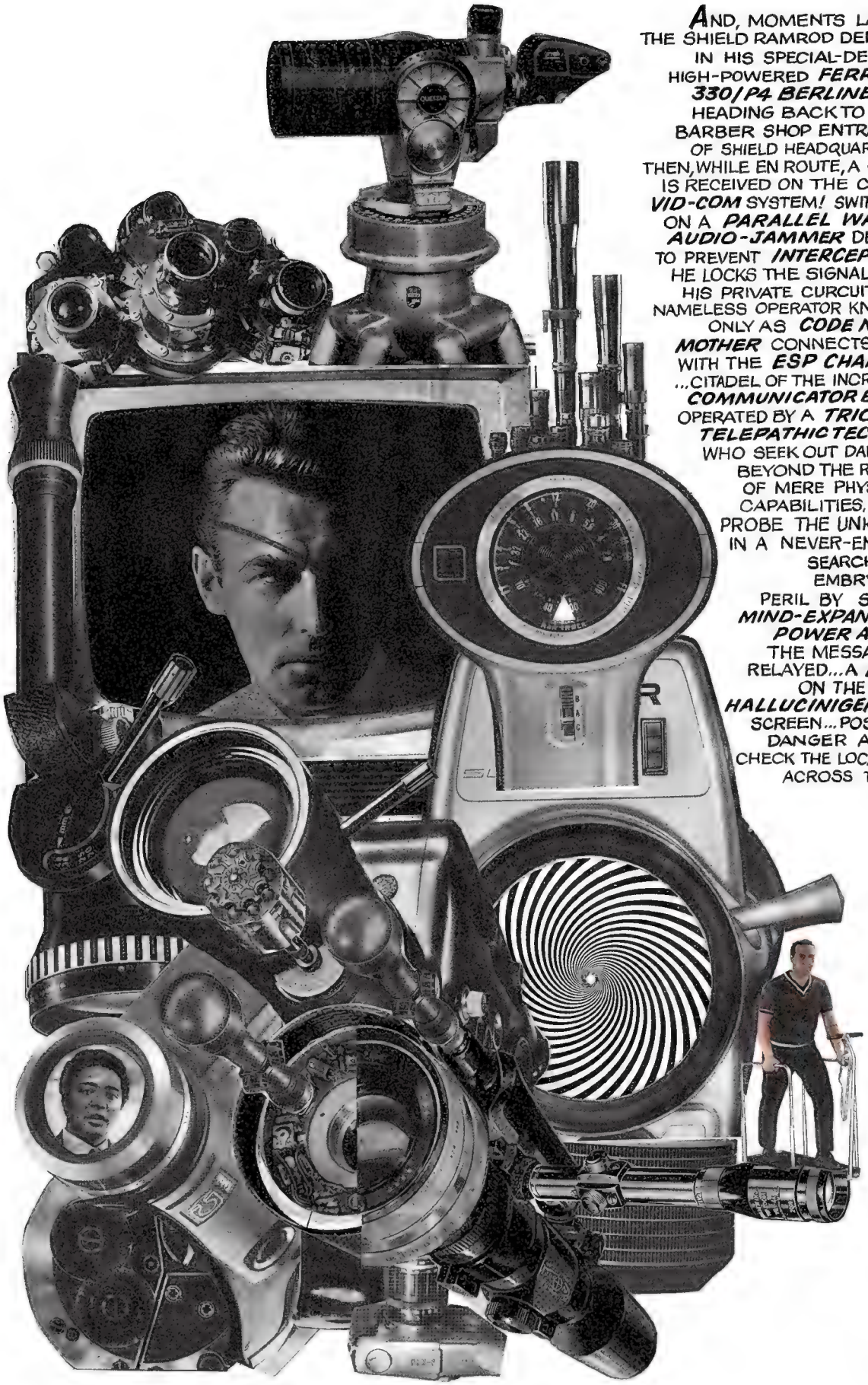

YEAH...IT JUST GOES TO SHOW WHAT A GUY CAN DO IF HE PUTS HIS MIND TO IT...HUH?
BUT, THEY MUST HAVE BEEN SEEN SOMETIME!
SURE!! IN THE LOCH! AN' PEOPLE CALLED IT EVERYTHING BUT WHAT IT REALLY WAS!
OH NO! NOT THE LOCH NESS MONSTER?
WHY NOT? MAKES A LOT MORE SENSE THAN A GIANT SEA CREATURE! THINK ABOUT IT!
YES!! YES...I SEE WHAT YOU MEAN!
MYCROFT TIPPED ME OFF WHEN HE HANDED ME THAT GUN! IT WAS LOADED WITH BLANKS... FELT TOO LIGHT TA HAVE REAL BULLETS IN IT!
AN' I HANDLED ENOUGH GUNS IN MY LIFETIME TA KNOW!
OF COURSE... THAT'S WHY YOU COULDN'T KILL THE HOUND!
YEAH, THAT'S THE WAY HE PLANNED IT! PROBABLY TRAINED THE HOUND, TOO!
SORRY, SWEETHEART... BUT NO USE LYIN' TO YA! YOU WERE ONLY PART OF HIS COVER, KINDA LIKE INSURANCE! LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN NOW!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT...HE WAS LIKE MY OWN FATHER!
AYE, LASS...BUT YE MIGHT AS WELL KNOW THE TRUTH NOW! MYCROFT LIVED AT RAVENLOCK YEARS AGO... MY BROTHER WAS CARE-TAKER THEN! AND HE HAD A BABY! BUT, HE WAS SICK---HIS WIFE HADN'T LIVED THRU CHILDBIRTH! HE ASKED MYCROFT TO CARE FOR THE CHILD BEFORE HE DIED!
THAT CHILD WAS... YOU, RACHEL!
THEN ---THEN...
AYE...AN' IT'S HERE YE'LL BE STAYIN' FROM NOW ON...
HERE AT RAVENLOCK WHERE YE BELONG!
COUNTESS CAUTION, EH? WADDAYA SAY WE LET 'EM GET ACQUAINTED, HUH? HOW'S ABOUT SWAPPIN' A COUPL'A GHOST TALES?
YEAH! LOOKS LIKE I CAN PUT THIS TRIP ON THE OL' SHIELD EXPENSE ACCOUNT AFTER ALL!
AND SO, THE CURSE OF CASTLE RAVENLOCK CAME TO AN END... BUT, NOT BEFORE MANY LIVES HAD FALLEN 'NEATH THE ANCIENT BLOOD OATH--- WHO WAS IT THAT SAID THE EVIL THAT MEN DO LIVES AFTER THEM? PERHAPS HE WAS RIGHT, AFTER ALL... WE'LL LET YOU BE THE JUDGE...
R.I.P.
BLACK HUGH RAVENLOCK
20.


NICK FURY, AGENT OF...
S.H.I.E.L.D.™
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
12¢ IND.
5 OCT
SCORPIO
STERANKO


New York Globe
WHATEVER HAPPENED TO
SCORPIO?
STAN LEE EDITS NEW SHIELD DRAMA, WRITTEN, ILLUSTRATED FOR MARVEL BY JIM STERANKO
JOHN TARTAG: INKER, GETS PARKING FINE
SAM ROSEN: LETTERER HAS VISIT FROM NEPHEWS DAN AND JOEL

LOOK AT THE BUILDINGS GLEAM IN THE SUN, NICK! IT SEEMS AS THOUGH NEW YORK WAS BUILT ONLY A MOMENT AGO!
DON'T MORNINGS LIKE THIS MAKE YOU FEEL ALIVE?
I DON'T LIKE THE DARK, NICK! EVERYTHING'S TOO QUIET, TOO STILL! THERE'S NO MUSIC AT NIGHT!
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I'M NIGHT PEOPLE MYSELF, ALWAYS WAS! ME AN' MY BROTHER WERE THE BEST NIGHT STICKBALL PLAYERS ON YANCY STREET!
YA MAKE YER OWN MUSIC AT NIGHT...DIG?
NIGHT TIME IS MY TIME, BEAUTIFUL!
C'MON, NICK! MUST YOU BE THE SECRET AGENT TWENTY-FOUR HOURS A DAY?
DOESN'T ANYTHING EVER TOUCH THAT BLACK HEART OF YOURS?
SURE..IF YA CAN FIND IT FIRST! WHAT'CHA LOOKIN' AT?
OH, NOTHING! JUST READING YOUR HORO-SCOPE FOR TODAY!
MOMMA FURY USED'TA READ 'EM TO US KIDS ALLA TIME! WHAT'S THE GOOD WORD?
WELL, IT SAYS... "BEWARE, SOMEONE IN YOUR PAST WILL RETURN TODAY!
UMMMH! GOTTA HUSTLE AN' MEET A GUY DOWNTOWN! PERSONAL THING!
DON'T BE LATE FOR THE LMD TEST---IT'S VERY IMPORTANT, YOU KNOW!
COUNT ON IT!
'TIL I SEE YOU THEN, REMEMBER ...YOU'RE NUMBER ONE, BEAUTIFUL!
2

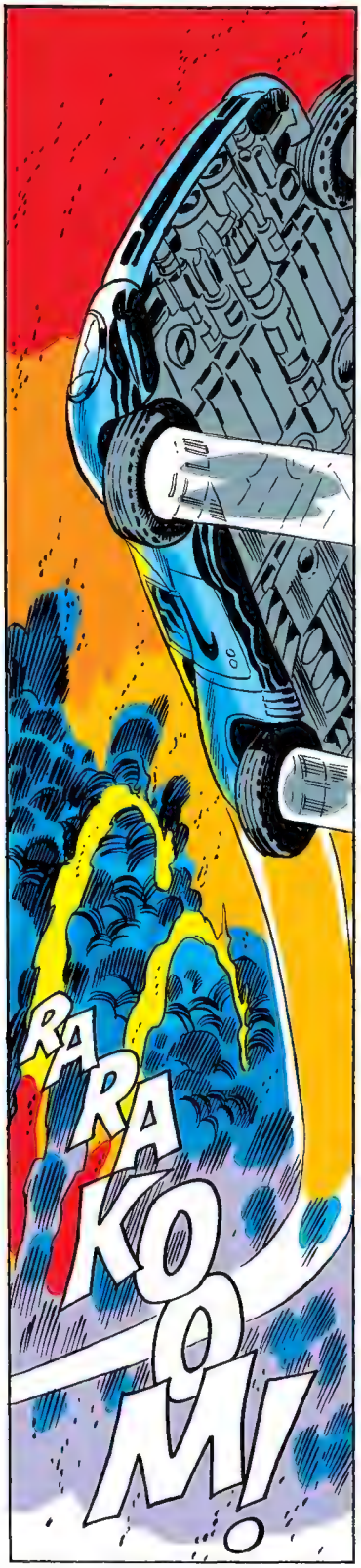
SHORTLY AFTERWARD...
COULDN'T TELL VAL HOW IMPORTANT THIS COULD BE TO ME! HOW LONG DO I HAVETA LOOK? HOW MANY LEADS DO I HAVETA TRACK DOWN?
HOW MANY BLANK WALLS DO I HAVETA RUN INTO BEFORE I FIND HIM?
BACK AT
C'MON... PICKMAN, OPEN UP... YA GOT A CUSTOMER!
TAP TAP TAP!
TINGLING TING
PICKMANS
AH, YES, NICHOLAS! HUMMMPH!! COME IN, MY BOY! COME IN!
I'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU!
TELL ME YA GOT AN ANSWER!
AHH, IF ONLY I COULD--- BUT, THE TRAIL IS HOT, MY FRIEND!
THEN, WHAT'RE YA WAITIN' AROUND FOR?
IT'S A DANGEROUS UNDERTAKING, NICHOLAS! NOT TO MENTION SLIGHTLY UNLAWFUL!
WHAT AIN'T THESE DAYS? YA KNOW I'D DO IT MYSELF, BUT I CAN'T GET SHIELD INVOLVED!
VERY WELL, THEN, MY BOY, FOR OLD TIMES' SAKE... AND, OF COURSE, MY FEE!
YEAH, I KNOW! JUST WATCH YER STEP, PICKMAN! DON'T TACKLE NOTHIN' YA CAN'T HANDLE! BUT, KNOWIN YOU...THAT AIN'T MUCH!
TRUST ME...I KNOW WHAT IT MEANS TO YOU! WE'VE WORKED ON THIS TOO LONG TO QUIT NOW!
DON'T FORGET, I KNEW HIM, TOO!
I AIN'T FORGETTIN, OL' TIMER!
GET TO ME IF YA HEAR ANYTHING!
I'LL BE AT THE ELLIOTT BUILDING BY THE PIER... I'LL LEAVE WORD! GOOD LUCK!
3.

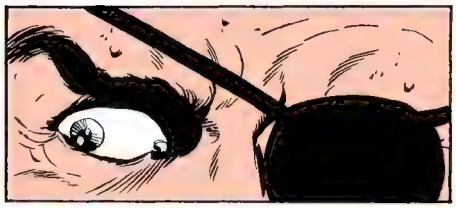


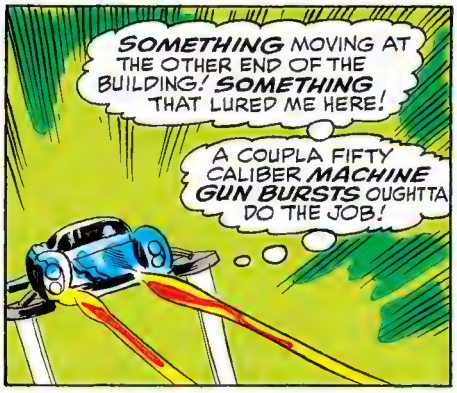
AND, MOMENTS LATER, THE SHIELD RAMROD DEPARTS IN HIS SPECIAL-DESIGN HIGH-POWERED ***FERRARI 330/P4 BERLINETTA,*** HEADING BACK TO THE BARBER SHOP ENTRANCE OF SHIELD HEADQUARTERS! THEN, WHILE EN ROUTE, A CALL IS RECEIVED ON THE CAR'S ***VID-COM*** SYSTEM! SWITCHING ON A ***PARALLEL WAVE AUDIO-JAMMER*** DEVICE TO PREVENT ***INTERCEPTION,*** HE LOCKS THE SIGNAL INTO HIS PRIVATE CURCUIT! A NAMELESS OPERATOR KNOWN ONLY AS ***CODE NAME MOTHER*** CONNECTS FURY WITH THE ***ESP CHAMBER*** ...CITADEL OF THE INCREDIBLE ***COMMUNICATOR BEAM!*** OPERATED BY A ***TRIO OF TELEPATHIC TECHNOS*** WHO SEEK OUT DANGER BEYOND THE REALM OF MERE PHYSICAL CAPABILITIES, THEY PROBE THE UNKNOWN IN A NEVER-ENDING SEARCH FOR EMBRYONIC PERIL BY SHEER ***MIND-EXPANDING POWER ALONE!*** THE MESSAGE IS RELAYED...A ***BLIP*** ON THE HUGE ***HALLUCINIGENATOR*** SCREEN...POSSIBLE DANGER AREA... CHECK THE LOCATIONS ACROSS TOWN!

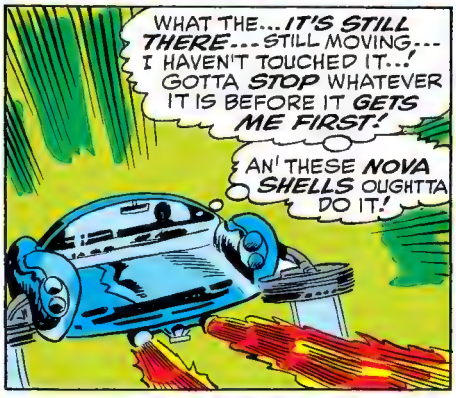
YEAH, THIS IS IT! SECTOR FR-39-601! THE ESP BOYS SAID THEIR SENSORS DETECTED A TROUBLE SPOT... SO WHILE I'M HERE, I'LL LOOK INTO IT!
MAYBE THE ESP'ERS WERE UPTIGHT FOR ACTION! COULD BE THE CALM BEFORE THE STORM, THOUGH! ONE WAY TO FIND OUT---
LOOKS DESERTED ENOUGH, THOUGH... MMM-- WHOLE SECTION'S QUIET!
KANE'S
--- BY GOIN' INSIDE! 'COURSE IT WON'T BE THE FIRST TIME I STUCK MY FOOT IN A BEAR TRAP! PROBABLY WON'T BE THE LAST, EITHER!
VRRUUMMM!
I HOPE!!
SLAM!
GAS
GAS
GAS
AMBBBBBAAMMBAMMBAMBAM
5.

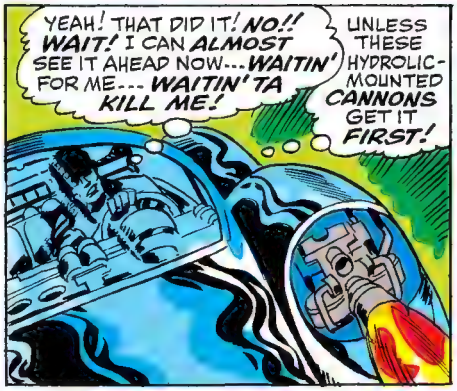
BARELY ESCAPING THE RAMPAGING GAS DRUMS, FURY'S CAR SOARS ***UPWARD,*** POWERED BY A HIGHLY MANEUVERABLE SET OF ***VORTEX BEAM DEVICES*** IN THE WHEEL RIMS--- JUST MISSING THE ***SEARING HAVOC*** RIPPING THRU THE BUILDING, AN EXPLOSIVE TEMPEST BILLOWING OUT TOWARD THE FLEEING VEHICLE---



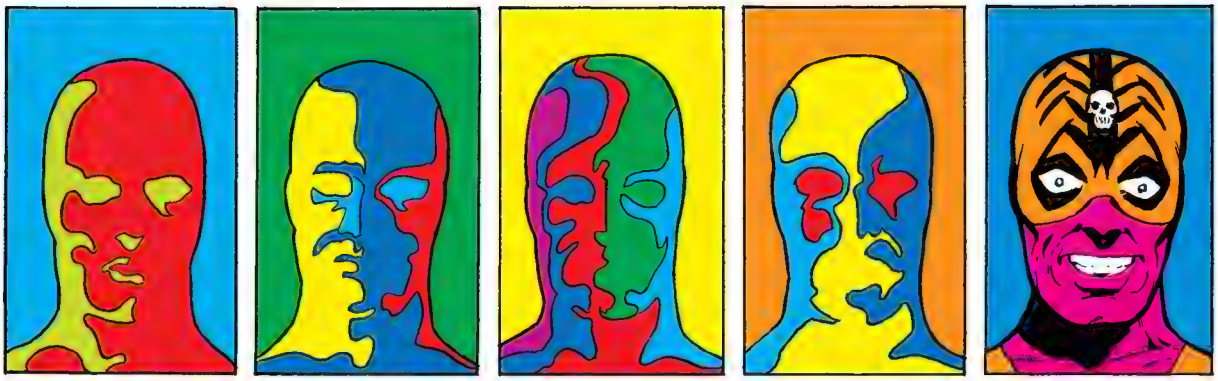

***SOMETHING*** MOVING AT THE OTHER END OF THE BUILDING! ***SOMETHING*** THAT LURED ME HERE!
A COUPLA FIFTY CALIBER ***MACHINE GUN BURSTS*** OUGHTTA DO THE JOB!


WHAT THE... ***IT'S STILL THERE*** --- STILL MOVING--- I HAVEN'T TOUCHED IT--! GOTTA ***STOP*** WHATEVER IT IS BEFORE IT ***GETS ME FIRST!***
AN' THESE ***NOVA SHELLS*** OUGHTTA DO IT!


YEAH! THAT DID IT! ***NO!! WAIT!*** I CAN ***ALMOST*** SEE IT AHEAD NOW--- ***WAITIN'*** FOR ME--- ***WAITIN' TA KILL ME!***
UNLESS THESE HYDROLIC-MOUNTED ***CANNONS*** GET IT ***FIRST!***

***SUDDENLY,*** THE HOVERING AIR-CAR IS JOLTED BY A FANTASTIC ***WAVE OF FORCE*** ---THEN THE DYNAMIC DIRECTOR OF SHIELD SEES THE ***AWESOME FIGURE*** THAT WAITS ***AHEAD*** TO CONFRONT HIM---

...A MALEVOLENT FIGURE THAT SEEMS TO SHIMMER WITH A FEVERISH SCINTILLA OF DEADLY COSMIC ENERGY...
GOTTA DO WHAT HE LEAST EXPECTS---MY ONLY CHANCE---THE CAR'LL BE MY WEAPON---
I'LL RUN HIM DOWN...
SSSKKRREEEE
7



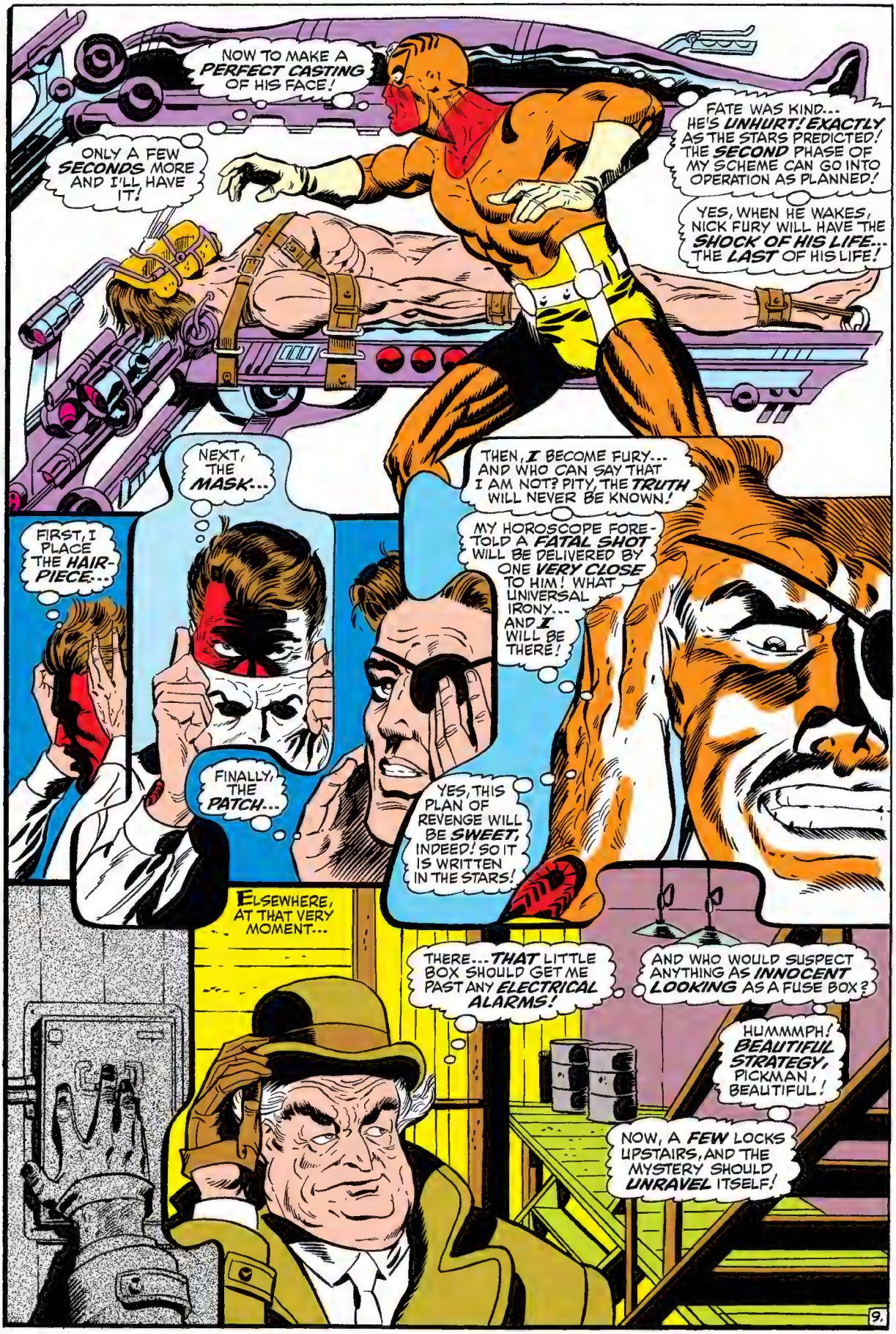
THEN, A SINISTER ***METAMORPHOSIS*** OCCURS, AS UNWORLDLY ***BANDS*** OF PULSATING COLOR SWEEP ACROSS THE FACE OF THE ***SPECTRAL VILLAIN***...COLORS EVER SHIFTING, FLICKERING, CHANGING, TWISTING, FUSING IN SHAPE AND SHADOW UNTIL STRANGE FEATURES BEGIN TO FASHION---FASHION INTO THE FORM OF A FACE ***NOT UNFAMILIAR*** TO THE UNSEEING ***EYES OF NICK FURY!*** THERE, STANDING BEFORE HIM, A MAN HE THOUGHT ***DEAD,*** YET SOMEHOW ***STILL ALIVE***... THE POWERFUL, STYGIAN FIGURE OF ***SCORPIO***---PULLING THE FALLEN HERO FROM THE TANGLED AND TWISTED WRECKAGE AS A ***HAWK*** WOULD PLUCK A MOUSE FROM HIS BURROW...

SO, WE MEET AGAIN! OF COURSE YOU THOUGHT YOU'D SEEN THE LAST OF ME--- ***HARDLY!***

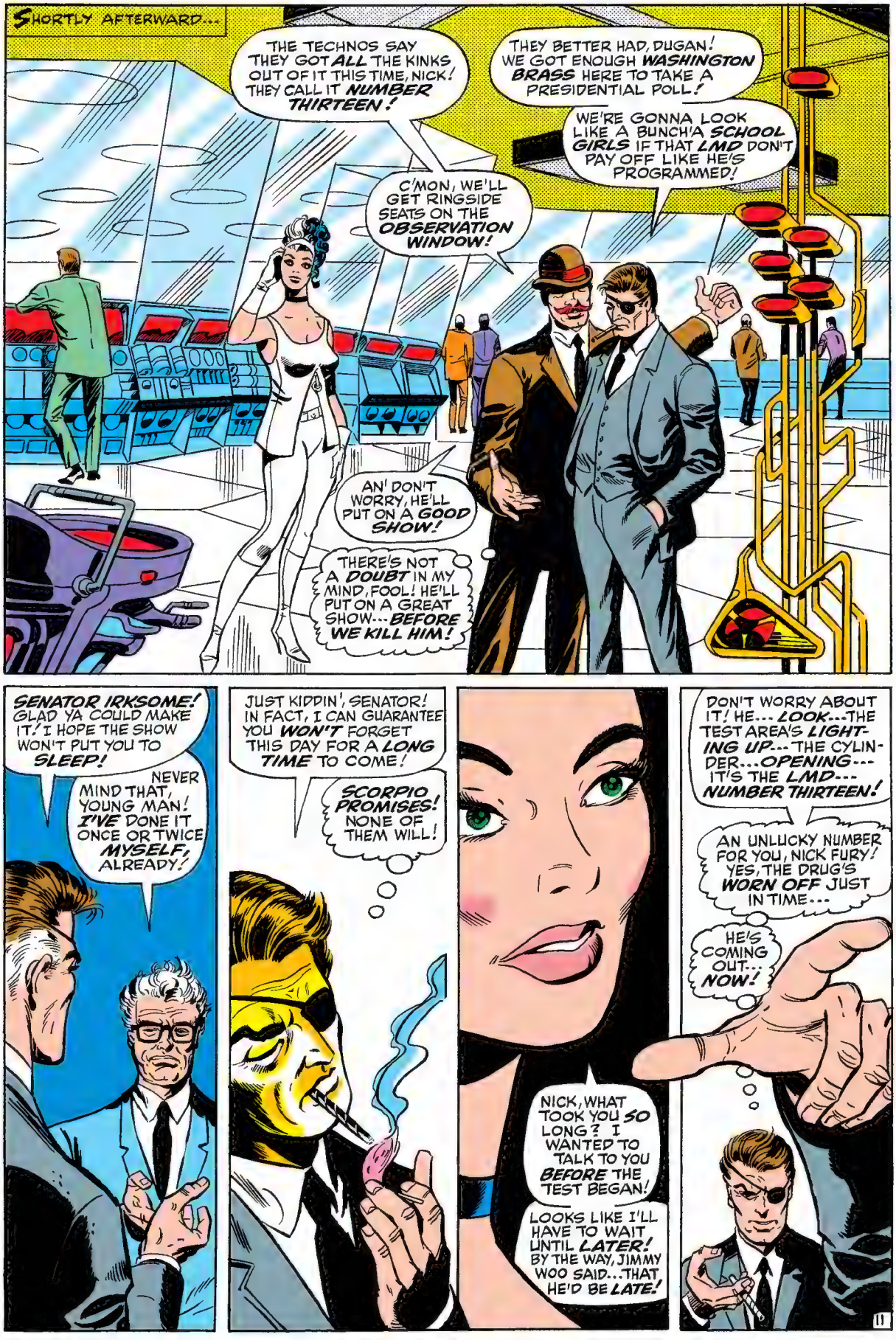
I ESCAPED AFTER MY ***KEY TO THE ZODIAC*** PROTECTED ME WITH ***SOLAR FORCE*** WHEN MY SHIP FELL AND BURNED, JUST AS IT CAUSED ***YOUR*** CAR TO CRASH NOW!

YOU SHOULD HAVE ***HEEDED*** THE WARNING YOUR HOROSCOPE CAST FOR YOU TODAY!

UNFORTUNATE, INDEED, FOR YOU! YOU SEE, MY ***OWN*** CYCLE IS HIGH ---TODAY IS DESTINED TO BE OUR ***FINAL*** MEETING!

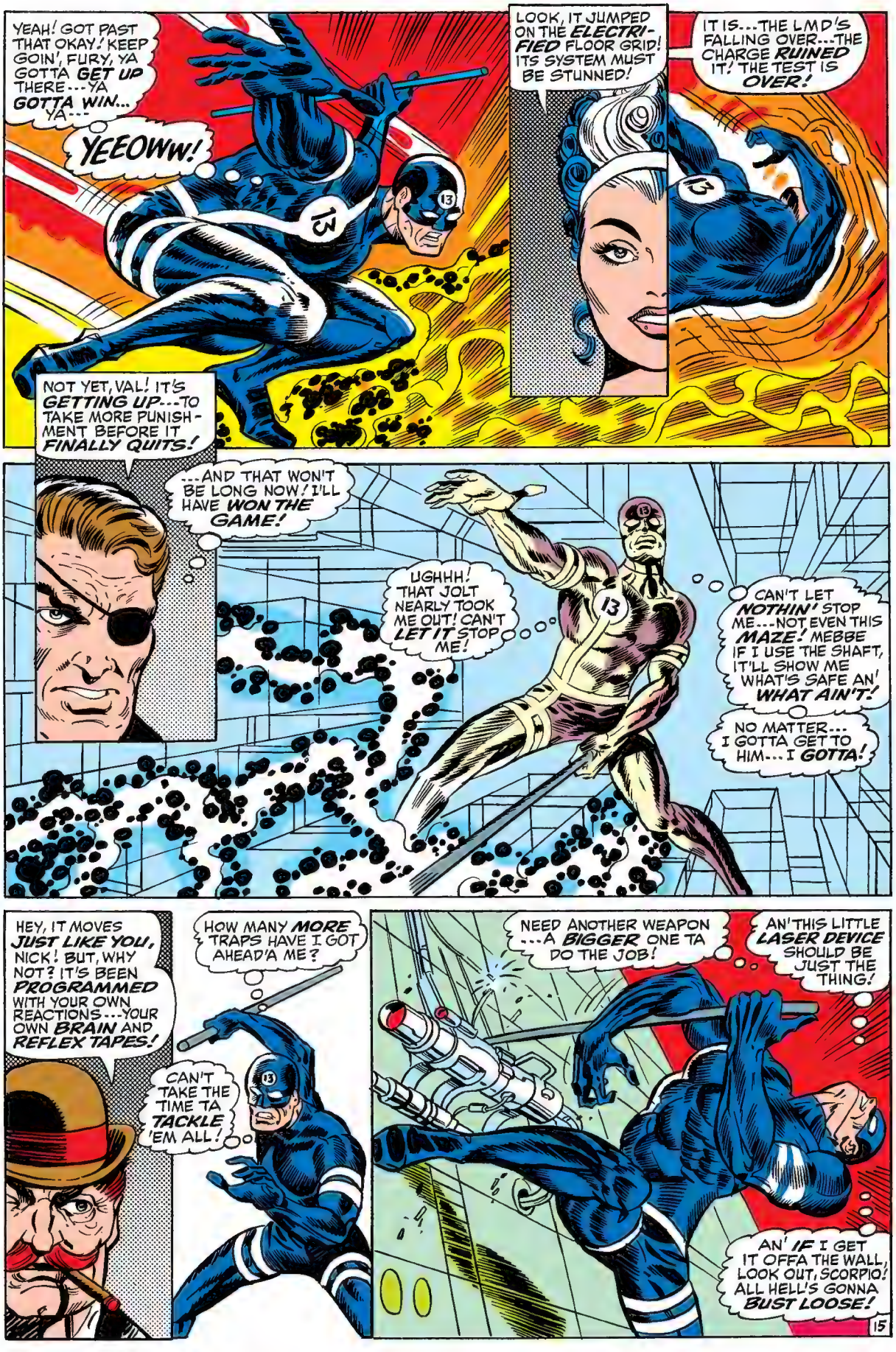

NOW TO MAKE A PERFECT CASTING OF HIS FACE!
ONLY A FEW SECONDS MORE AND I'LL HAVE IT!
FATE WAS KIND... HE'S UNHURT! EXACTLY AS THE STARS PREDICTED! THE SECOND PHASE OF MY SCHEME CAN GO INTO OPERATION AS PLANNED!
YES, WHEN HE WAKES, NICK FURY WILL HAVE THE SHOCK OF HIS LIFE... THE LAST OF HIS LIFE!
NEXT, THE MASK...
FIRST, I PLACE THE HAIR-PIECE...
FINALLY, THE PATCH...
THEN, I BECOME FURY... AND WHO CAN SAY THAT I AM NOT? PITY, THE TRUTH WILL NEVER BE KNOWN!
MY HOROSCOPE FORE-TOLD A FATAL SHOT WILL BE DELIVERED BY ONE VERY CLOSE TO HIM! WHAT UNIVERSAL IRONY... AND I WILL BE THERE!
YES, THIS PLAN OF REVENGE WILL BE SWEET, INDEED! SO IT IS WRITTEN IN THE STARS!
ELSEWHERE, AT THAT VERY MOMENT...
THERE... THAT LITTLE BOX SHOULD GET ME PAST ANY ELECTRICAL ALARMS!
AND WHO WOULD SUSPECT ANYTHING AS INNOCENT LOOKING AS A FUSE BOX?
HUMMMPH! BEAUTIFUL STRATEGY, PICKMAN, BEAUTIFUL!
NOW, A FEW LOCKS UPSTAIRS, AND THE MYSTERY SHOULD UNRAVEL ITSELF!

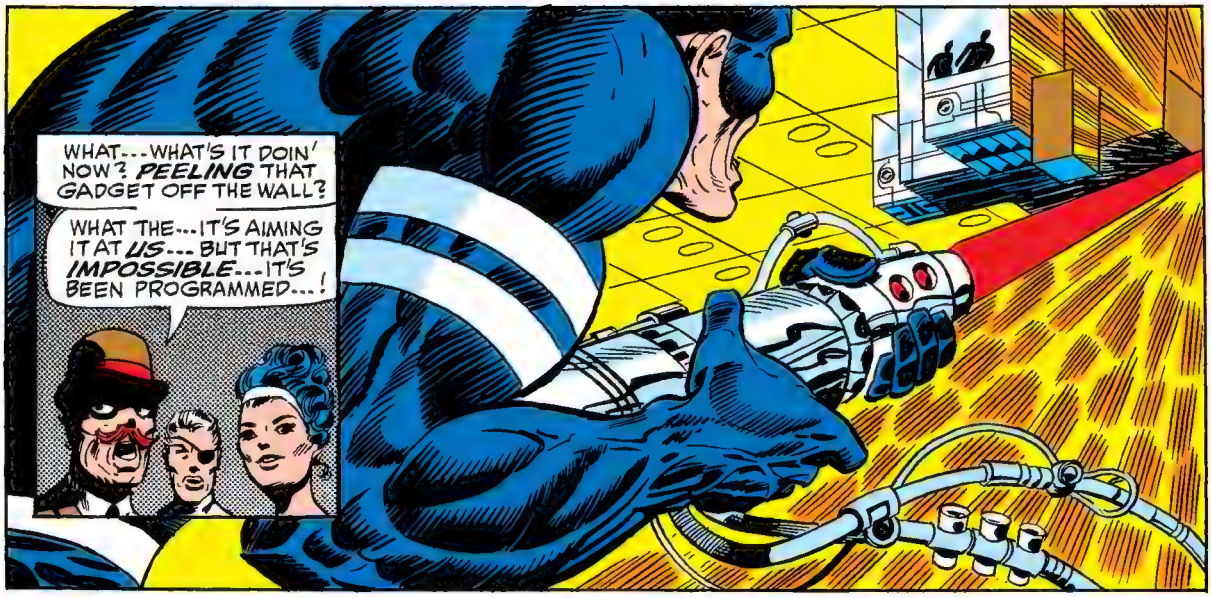
AHH, YES...WELL DONE, PICKMAN! IN THE HANDS OF ANYONE ELSE, THESE TOOLS WOULD BE USELESS!
TOO BAD THESE PERFORMANCES MUST GO UNNOTICED...BUT ANONYMITY CAN BE A BLESSING, ESPECIALLY IN THIS LINE OF WORK!
I TRUST THIS WILL GIVE FURY THE ANSWER HE'S BEEN SEEKING THESE MANY YEARS!
HUMMPHH!... SHIELD DATA BY THE TON! THIS COULD BE WORTH A SMALL FORTUNE TO THE OTHER SIDE!
"AHHH, PICKMAN...A TRAITOR YOU'RE NOT! YET, IF WHAT THIS SEEMS TO MEAN IS TRUE, THEN FURY WILL BE IN EXTREME DANGER! I MUST REACH HIM IN TIME! YES, JUST ABOUT NOW, HE IS BEING TAKEN TO THE ELLIOTT BUILDING TO THAT TEST! LET'S SEE, WHAT DID THEY CALL IT...?"
THE LIFE MODEL DECOY TEST WILL COMMENCE ON SCHEDULE, SIR!
EVERYTHING IS CAREFULLY PREPARED! ALL PRECAUTIONS TAKEN!
GUESS AGAIN, MISTER! THE GUARD OUTSIDE LET ME IN WITHOUT CHECKIN' MY CREDENTIALS!
PUT HIM ON REPORT AN' REPLACE HIM! I COULD HAVE A TWIN BROTHER THAT'D WALTZ RIGHT IN HERE!
MUST BE CAREFUL...DO EVERYTHING JUST LIKE HIM... CAN'T MAKE A MISTAKE NOW!
HEY, YOU JOKERS... TAKE IT EASY WITH THAT CRATE! WE GOT A BIG INVESTMENT INSIDE! GET IT UP TO THE PREPARATION CYLINDER... I'LL BE UP IN A MINUTE!
CLASSIFIED
10.


SHORTLY AFTERWARD...
THE TECHNOS SAY THEY GOT ALL THE KINKS OUT OF IT THIS TIME, NICK! THEY CALL IT NUMBER THIRTEEN!
THEY BETTER HAD, DUGAN! WE GOT ENOUGH WASHINGTON BRASS HERE TO TAKE A PRESIDENTIAL POLL!
WE'RE GONNA LOOK LIKE A BUNCH'A SCHOOL GIRLS IF THAT LMD DON'T PAY OFF LIKE HE'S PROGRAMMED!
C'MON, WE'LL GET RINGSIDE SEATS ON THE OBSERVATION WINDOW!
AN' DON'T WORRY, HE'LL PUT ON A GOOD SHOW!
THERE'S NOT A DOUBT IN MY MIND, FOOL! HE'LL PUT ON A GREAT SHOW--- BEFORE WE KILL HIM!
SENATOR IRKSOME! GLAD YA COULD MAKE IT! I HOPE THE SHOW WON'T PUT YOU TO SLEEP!
NEVER MIND THAT, YOUNG MAN! I'VE DONE IT ONCE OR TWICE MYSELF, ALREADY!
JUST KIDDIN', SENATOR! IN FACT, I CAN GUARANTEE YOU WON'T FORGET THIS DAY FOR A LONG TIME TO COME!
SCORPIO PROMISES! NONE OF THEM WILL!
NICK, WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG? I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU BEFORE THE TEST BEGAN!
LOOKS LIKE I'LL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL LATER! BY THE WAY, JIMMY WOO SAID...THAT HE'D BE LATE!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT! HE--- LOOK---THE TEST AREA'S LIGHTING UP--- THE CYLINDER...OPENING--- IT'S THE LMD--- NUMBER THIRTEEN!
AN UNLUCKY NUMBER FOR YOU, NICK FURY! YES, THE DRUG'S WORN OFF JUST IN TIME---
HE'S COMING OUT... NOW!
11

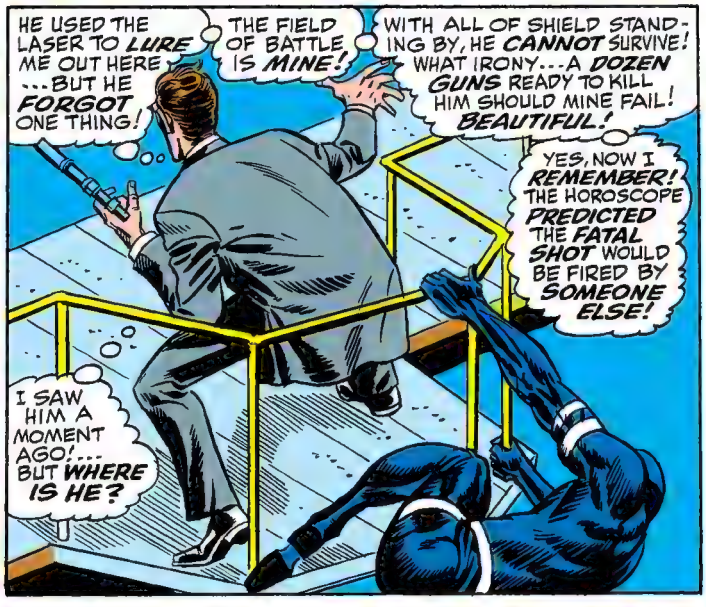
THEN, ALL EYES FOCUS ON THE BLACK-CLAD FIGURE ***EMERGING*** FROM THE CLEAR CYLINDRICAL SHAFT ACROSS THE CHAMBER FLOOR... A FIGURE BEARING THE NUMBER ***THIRTEEN***---A FIGURE ***THOUGHT*** TO BE SHIELD'S PERFECTED ***LIFE MODEL DECOY***... YET, INSTEAD, THROUGH A BIZARRE SET OF CIRCUMSTANCES, COLONEL NICK FURY FINDS THAT HE HAS ***REPLACED*** THE TEST LMD, AND NOW FACES THE ROOM OF A THOUSAND AND ONE TRAPS WHERE ***UNKNOWN DEATH*** LIES IN WAIT BEYOND EVERY FOOTFALL ---

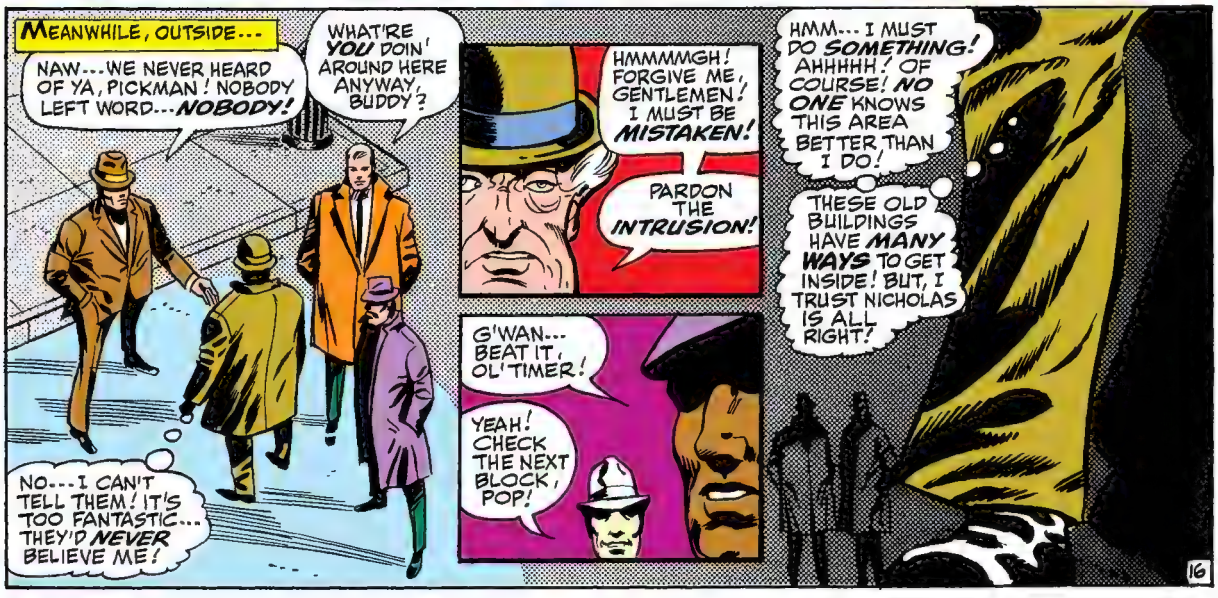
THAK THAK THACK TH
WHAT THE...? A VOLLEY OF SHAFTS MEANT TA MAKE A PIN-CUSHION OUTTA ME!
THAT WAS TOO CLOSE... GOTTA LET SHIELD KNOW IT'S ME... BEFORE I'M WASTED!
HUH...! MY VOICE GONE... CAN'T TALK! MUST BE DRUGGED... HAVETA THINK OF SOMETHIN'... FAST!
NEED A WEAPON... NOTHIN' HERE BUT... YEAH ... WHY NOT?
THIS'LL HAVE TO DO FOR THE TIME BEING!
MY HEAD... REELIN'... LAST THING I REMEMBER IS THE CRASH... SCORPIO ... NOW, I WIND UP HERE AT...
NAW... IT... IT CAN'T BE... BUT IT IS... ME IN THE OBSERVATION BOOTH!
YEAH... SCORPIO, TAKIN' MY PLACE WATCHIN'... WAITIN'... FOR ME TA DIE... MY OWN MEN CARRYIN' OUT THE DEATH SENTENCE!
I GOTTA GET UP THERE... ONE WAY OR ANOTHER... EVEN IF IT KILLS ME!
13
THE DRUG... IT'S SLOWING HIM DOWN, KEEPING HIM FROM TALKING! THE NEXT FEW MOMENTS WILL BE CRITICAL!
DUGAN, THE FLOOR TRAP, QUICK!
BEEN TALKING 'BOUT THIS TEST FOR WEEKS! HOPE IT WORKS!
RIGHT!
IF ONLY I COULD HAVE SPOKEN TO NICK! SOMETHING'S WRONG! SHOULD I TELL HIM?
NICK! I... I... NEVER MIND!
UGGGHH! WHAT THE SAM HILL...
BLASTED FLOOR SLIDIN' BACK... A PIT OF SPEARS...
CAREFUL, BABY, CAREFUL!
THEY'LL HAVETA DO BETTER'N THAT TO STOP ME!
TOO FAR TA JUMP, BUT WITH THE HELP'A THIS ROD...
I'LL MAKE IT!


YEAH! GOT PAST THAT OKAY! KEEP GOIN', FURY, YA GOTTA GET UP THERE---YA GOTTA WIN... YA---
YEEOWW!
LOOK, IT JUMPED ON THE ELECTRIFIED FLOOR GRID! ITS SYSTEM MUST BE STUNNED!
IT IS---THE LMD'S FALLING OVER---THE CHARGE RUINED IT! THE TEST IS OVER!
NOT YET, VAL! IT'S GETTING UP---TO TAKE MORE PUNISHMENT BEFORE IT FINALLY QUITS!
---AND THAT WON'T BE LONG NOW! I'LL HAVE WON THE GAME!
UGHHH! THAT JOLT NEARLY TOOK ME OUT! CAN'T LET IT STOP ME!
CAN'T LET NOTHIN' STOP ME---NOT EVEN THIS MAZE! MEBBE IF I USE THE SHAFT, IT'LL SHOW ME WHAT'S SAFE AN' WHAT AIN'T!
NO MATTER... I GOTTA GET TO HIM---I GOTTA!
HEY, IT MOVES JUST LIKE YOU, NICK! BUT, WHY NOT? IT'S BEEN PROGRAMMED WITH YOUR OWN REACTIONS---YOUR OWN BRAIN AND REFLEX TAPES!
HOW MANY MORE TRAPS HAVE I GOT AHEAD'A ME?
CAN'T TAKE THE TIME TA TACKLE 'EM ALL!
NEED ANOTHER WEAPON ---A BIGGER ONE TA DO THE JOB!
AN' THIS LITTLE LASER DEVICE SHOULD BE JUST THE THING!
AN' IF I GET IT OFFA THE WALL, LOOK OUT, SCORPIO! ALL HELL'S GONNA BUST LOOSE!

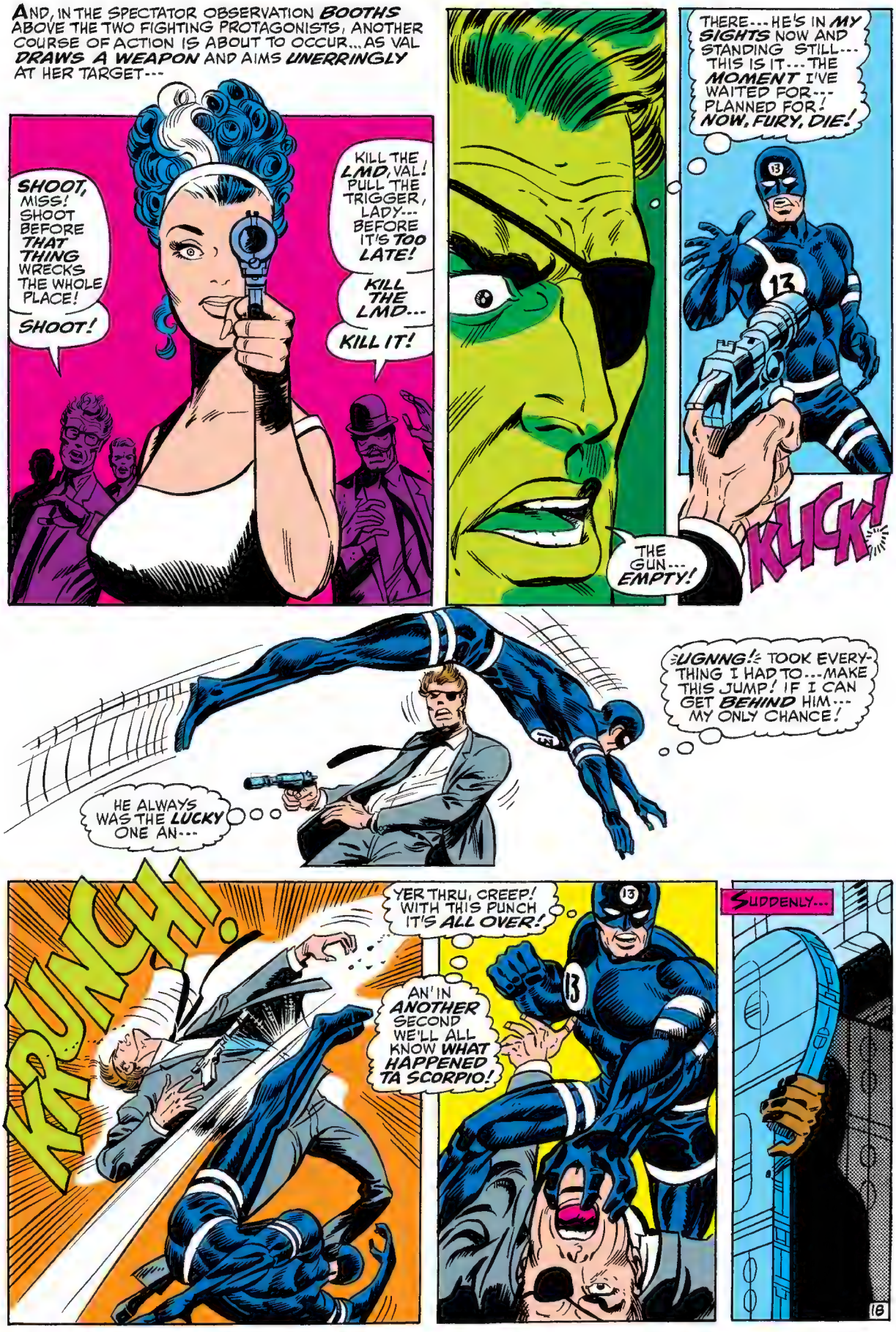

WHAT---WHAT'S IT DOIN' NOW? PEELING THAT GADGET OFF THE WALL?
WHAT THE---IT'S AIMING IT AT US--- BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE---IT'S BEEN PROGRAMMED---!

THE DRUG I GAVE HIM MUST BE WEARING OFF TOO SOON!
HE SHOULD HAVE DIED IN THAT ELECTRIC MAZE!
NOW, I MUST BEGIN ANOTHER PHASE OF MY PLAN!
SCORPIO OVERLOOKS NOTHING!
NOW, IT'S UP TO ME! I MUST EXECUTE FURY PERSONALLY!


HE USED THE LASER TO LURE ME OUT HERE ---BUT HE FORGOT ONE THING!
THE FIELD OF BATTLE, IS MINE!
WITH ALL OF SHIELD STANDING BY, HE CANNOT SURVIVE! WHAT IRONY---A DOZEN GUNS READY TO KILL HIM SHOULD MINE FAIL! BEAUTIFUL!
YES, NOW I REMEMBER! THE HOROSCOPE PREDICTED THE FATAL SHOT WOULD BE FIRED BY SOMEONE ELSE!
I SAW HIM A MOMENT AGO!--- BUT WHERE IS HE?


MEANWHILE, OUTSIDE---
NAW---WE NEVER HEARD OF YA, PICKMAN! NOBODY LEFT WORD---NOBODY!
WHAT'RE YOU DOIN' AROUND HERE ANYWAY, BUDDY?
NO---I CAN'T TELL THEM! IT'S TOO FANTASTIC--- THEY'D NEVER BELIEVE ME!
HMMMMGH! FORGIVE ME, GENTLEMEN! I MUST BE MISTAKEN!
PARDON THE INTRUSION!
G'WAN--- BEAT IT, OL' TIMER!
YEAH! CHECK THE NEXT BLOCK, POP!
HMM--- I MUST DO SOMETHING! AHHHHH! OF COURSE! NO ONE KNOWS THIS AREA BETTER THAN I DO!
THESE OLD BUILDINGS HAVE MANY WAYS TO GET INSIDE! BUT, I TRUST NICHOLAS IS ALL RIGHT!

AND INSIDE, FURY THROWS A STAGGERING PUNCH THAT HURLS BOTH FIGURES TO THE FLOOR BELOW THE CATWALK...
BASH!
UGGH! THAT FALL... FEELS LIKE IT BUSTED A COUPLA RIBS... GOTTA GET THAT GUN BEFORE... ARRRGH!!
NOW, WHILE HE'S STUNNED... NOW, WHILE I HAVE THE CHANCE!
THEN, I'LL TELL THEM I HAD TO STOP THE LMD LIKE THIS!
THEY WON'T KNOW THE TRUTH UNTIL LATER!
JUST MISSED... BUT I CAN'T KEEP IT UP MUCH LONGER! ...CAN'T KEEP MOVIN'! THE DRUG ...TAKIN' ITS TOLL!

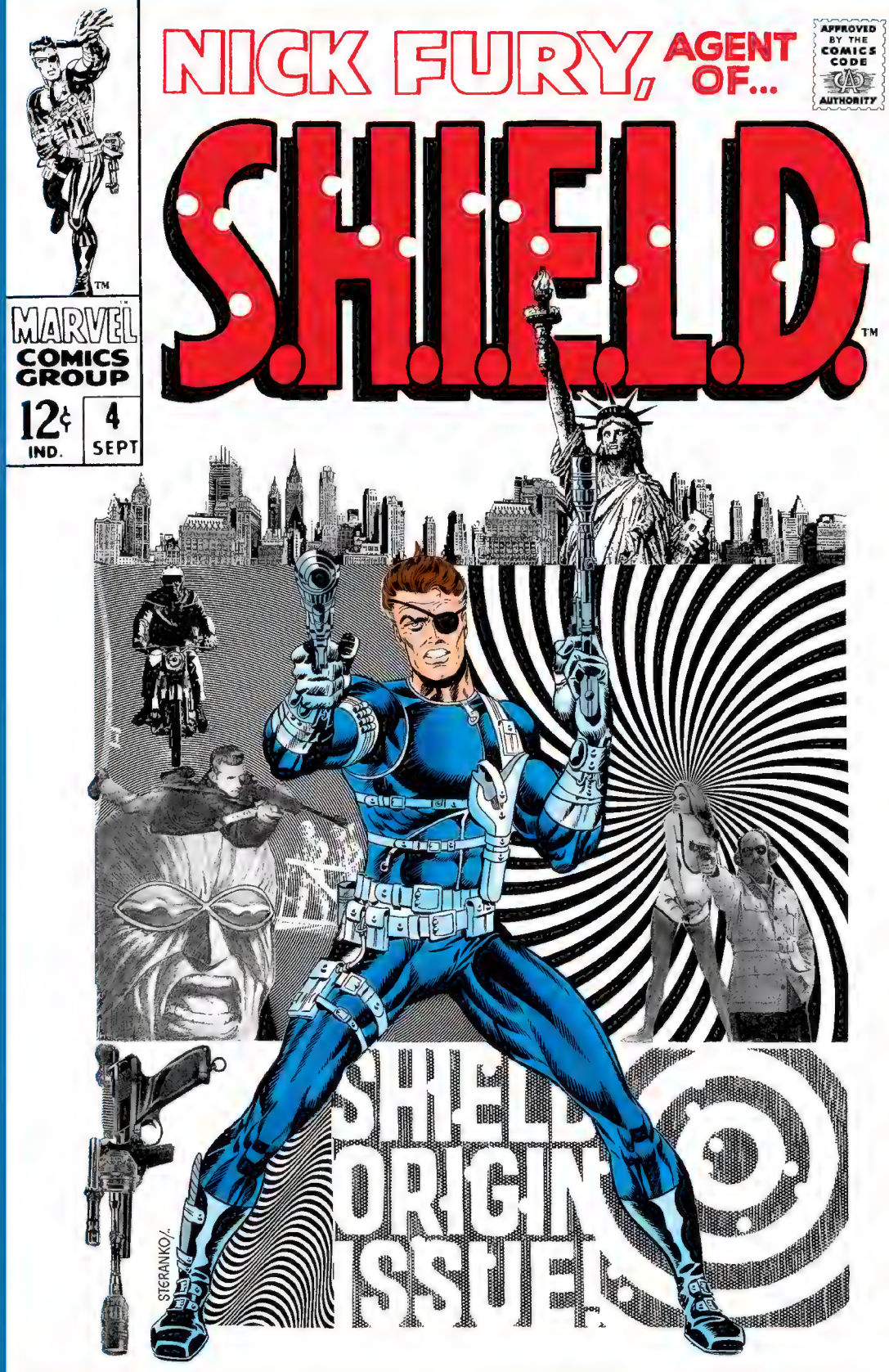

AND, IN THE SPECTATOR OBSERVATION BOOTHS ABOVE THE TWO FIGHTING PROTAGONISTS, ANOTHER COURSE OF ACTION IS ABOUT TO OCCUR...AS VAL DRAWS A WEAPON AND AIMS UNERRINGLY AT HER TARGET---
SHOOT, MISS! SHOOT BEFORE THAT THING WRECKS THE WHOLE PLACE!
SHOOT!
KILL THE LMD, VAL! PULL THE TRIGGER, LADY--- BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!
KILL THE LMD...
KILL IT!
THERE--- HE'S IN MY SIGHTS NOW AND STANDING STILL--- THIS IS IT--- THE MOMENT I'VE WAITED FOR--- PLANNED FOR! NOW, FURY, DIE!
KLICK!
THE GUN--- EMPTY!
HE ALWAYS WAS THE LUCKY ONE AN---
UGNNG! TOOK EVERYTHING I HAD TO--- MAKE THIS JUMP! IF I CAN GET BEHIND HIM--- MY ONLY CHANCE!
KRUNCH!
YER THRU, CREEP! WITH THIS PUNCH IT'S ALL OVER!
AN' IN ANOTHER SECOND WE'LL ALL KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TA SCORPIO!
SUDDENLY...
18

THE SHOT---HIT THE WRONG ONE! --- WHERE THE DEVIL DID THAT OLD MAN COME FROM?
WAIT!! COULD IT BE--- NO, CAN'T FIND OUT NOW!
THERE'S TOO MANY---MUST GET AWAY WHILE THERE'S STILL TIME!
SECURITY--- ON THE DOUBLE--- GET MOVIN'!!
NOW WHAT THE---
FURY'S RUNNIN' AWAY!
C'MON, LET'S GO!
THE FAT MAN--- HE'S NOT MOVING! IT'S TOO LATE!
HE'S DEAD!
IT DON'T MAKE SENSE--- THIS LMD GOIN' WACKY, THEN--- HEY! IT'S STIRRIN' AN'-- BLAZES---
UNDER THE HEADPIECE--- IT'S FURY! GET THE MEDICS HERE--- MOVE!!
---FORGET.. --IT--- --GOTTA-- -- GET-- -- HIM--- --SCORPIO..
13
19.

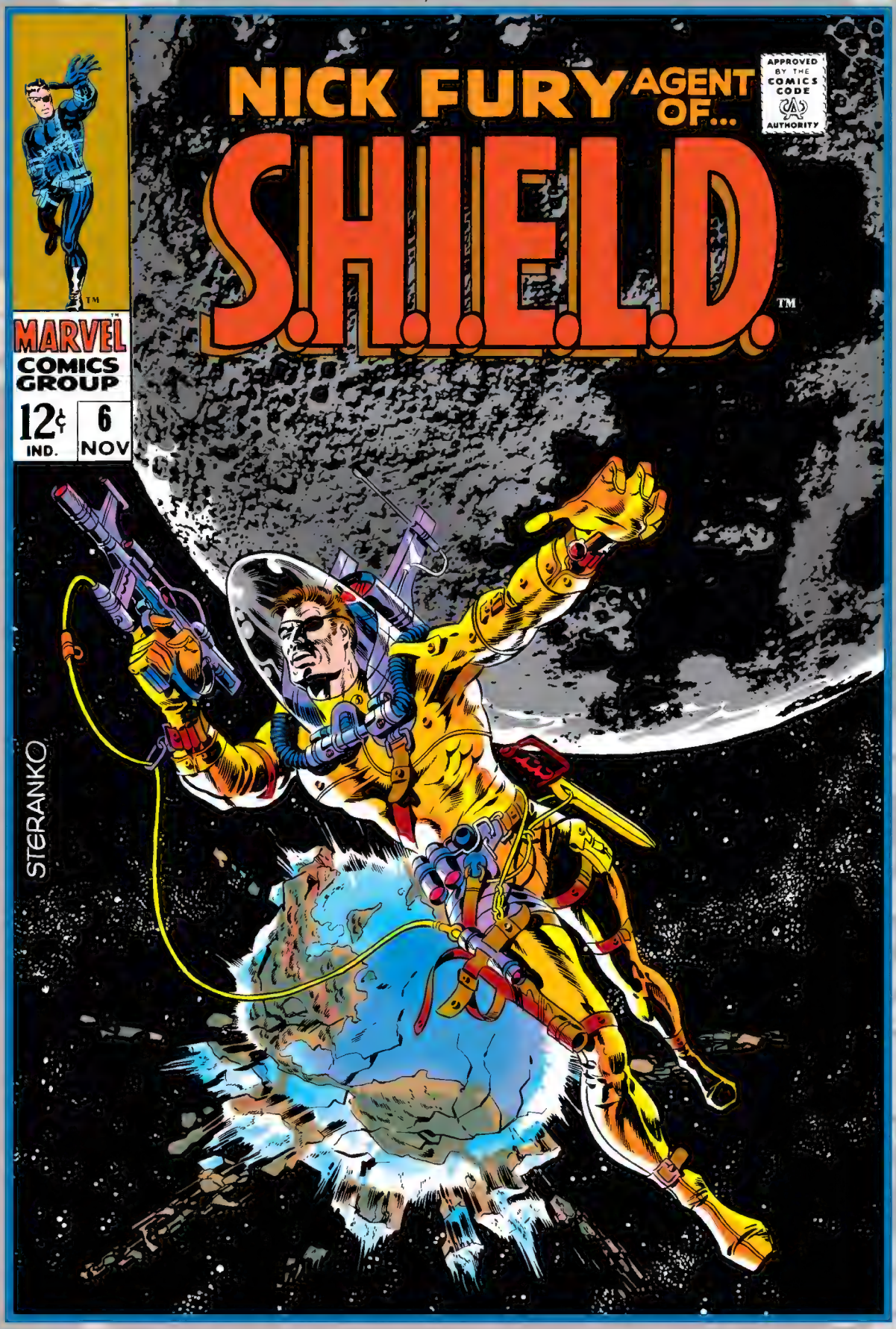
THEN, EVERY MUSCLE AND FIBER OF HIS BODY ACHING, THE INDESTRUCTIBLE AGENT OF SHIELD PURSUES THE FLEEING FIGURE!
YOU!
LOOK, HE'S PLUNGING INTO THE RIVER BELOW!
SO?? HE'S GOT ENOUGH LEAD IN HIM TO SINK STRAIGHT TO THE BOTTOM!
YEAH! UNLESS THE CURRENT CARRIES HIM AWAY FIRST!
20

BUT, NO BODY WAS *EVER* FOUND! INDEED, IT SEEMED THAT THE VERY *TIDE ITSELF* HAD CLEANSED THE HARBOR OF EVIL IN ITS OWN MYSTERIOUS WAY, SWALLOWING IT UP SO THAT *NONE MAY EVER KNOW* WHAT HAPPENED TO SCORPIO! YET, *ONE MAN* HAD TO KNOW AND WAITED, WATCHING THRU NIGHT'S LONELY EBON HOURS, UNTIL THE CRIMSON DAWN MELTED THE EBBING BLACKNESS! WHAT *STRANGE SECRET* NOW LAY LOCKED IN HIS HEART... WHAT REVELATION HAD CAUSED THE TAUT, GRIM VISAGE HE NOW WORE LIKE A MASK? WAS THE SEARCH OVER OR *HAD IT ONLY BEGUN?* FURY ASKED HIMSELF THE QUESTION A *THOUSAND TIMES* OVER AGAIN...WOULD HE EVER KNOW?... *WHATEVER HAPPENED TO SCORPIO?*

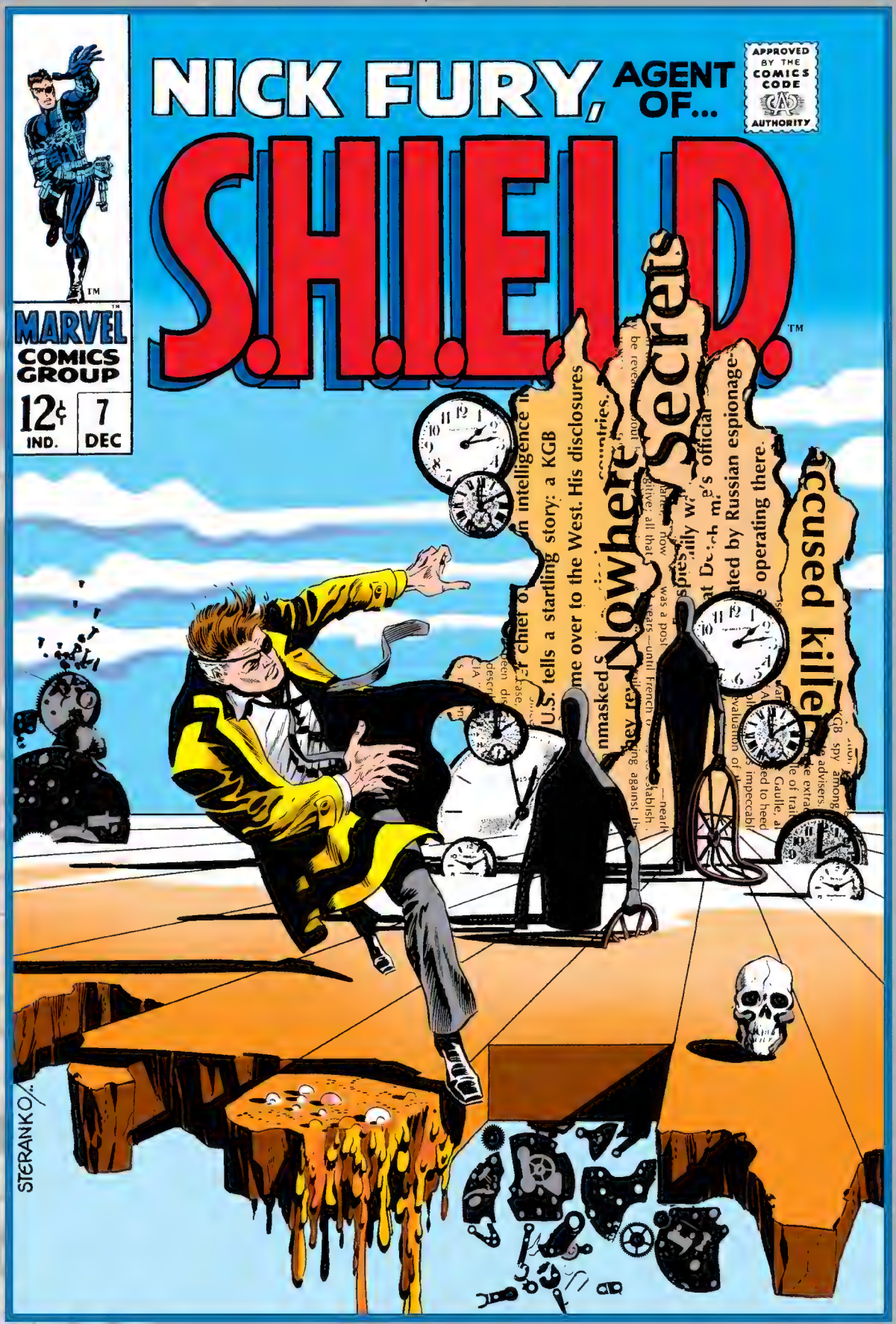
*Nick Fury, Agent of S.H.I.E.L.D.* #4 (September 1968) cover
by Steranko



*Nick Fury, Agent of S.H.I.E.L.D.* #6 (November 1968) cover
by Steranko



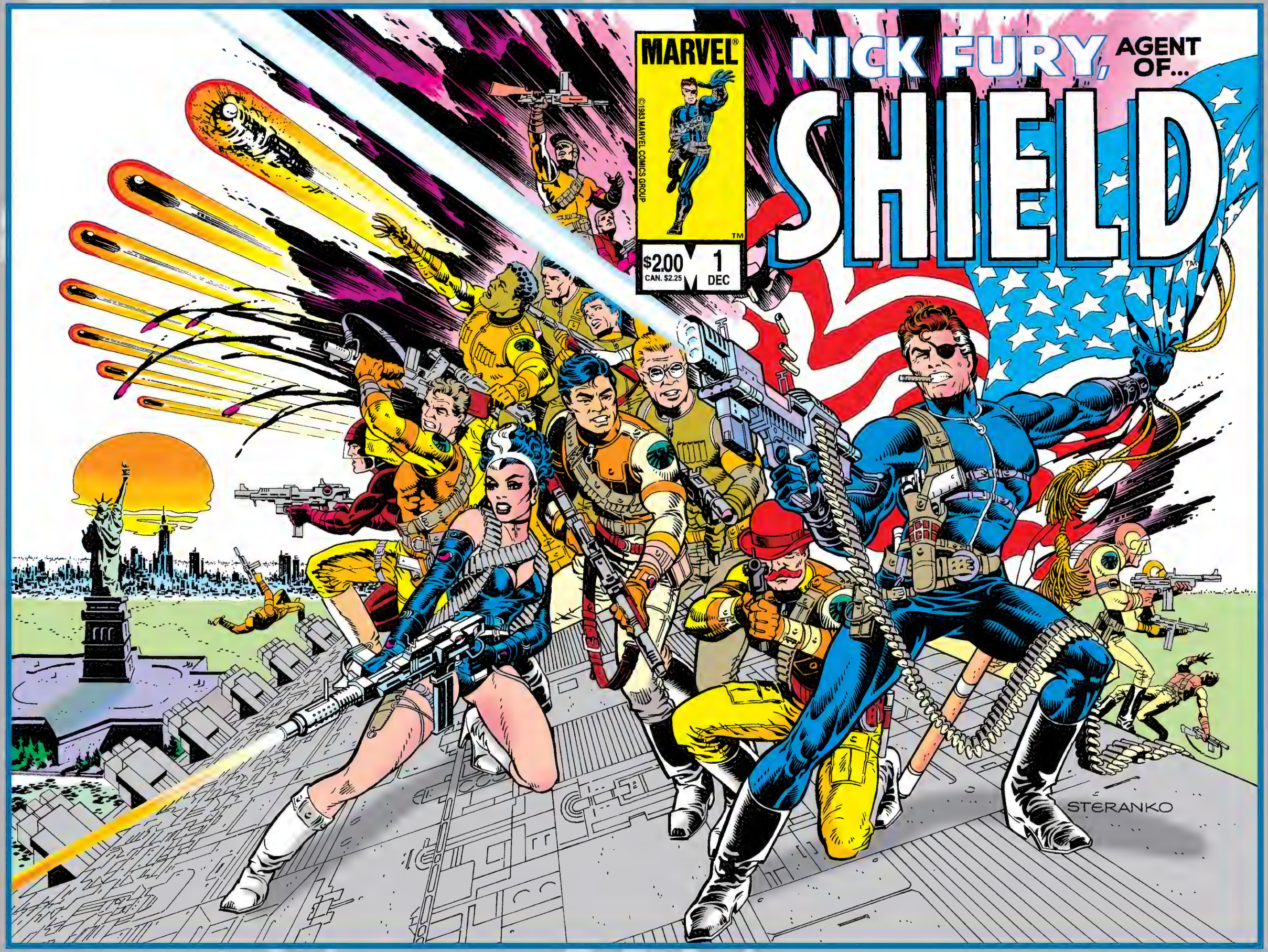
*Nick Fury, Agent of S.H.I.E.L.D.* #7 (December 1968) cover
by Steranko



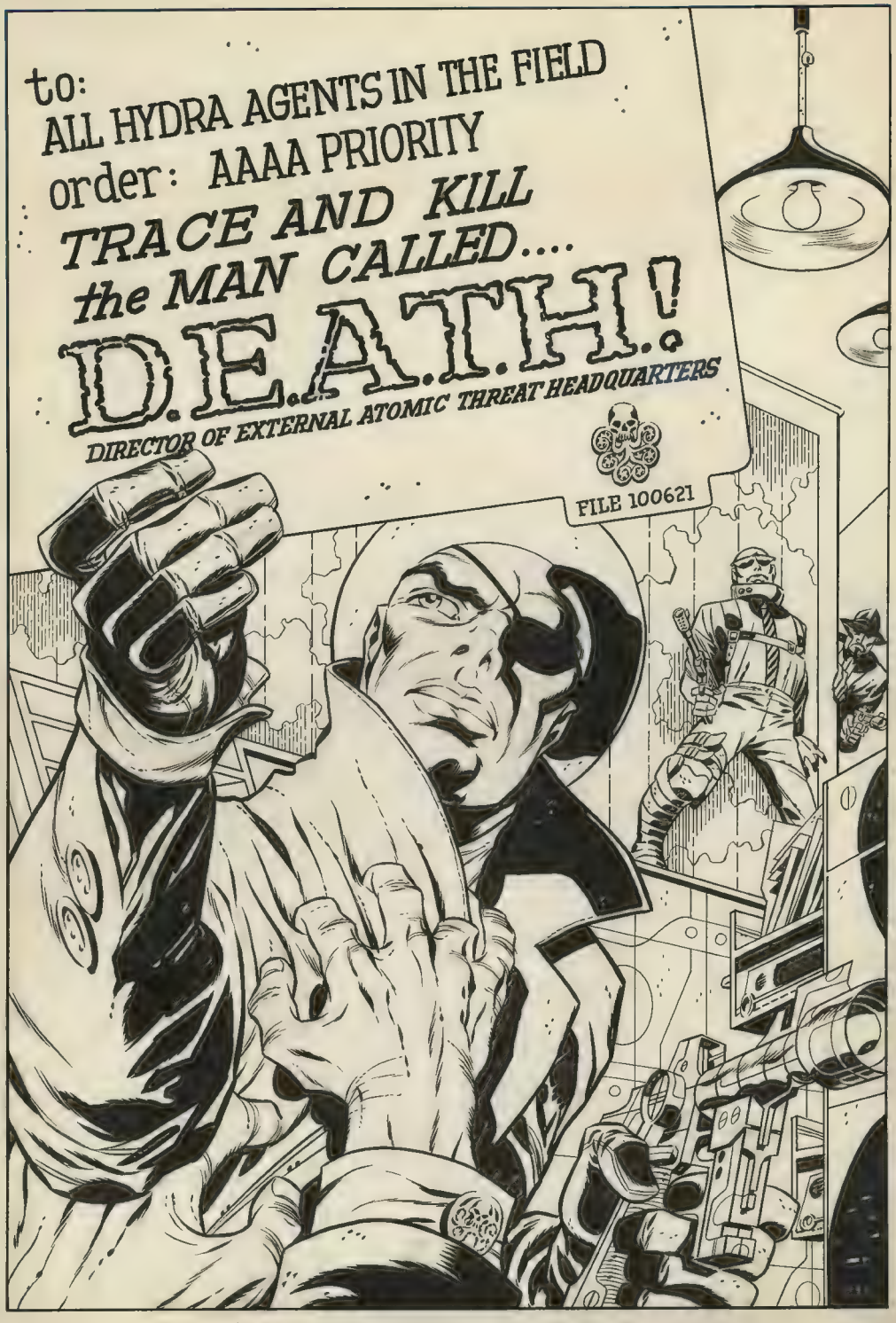
*Nick Fury and His Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.* #1 (February 1973) cover, by Steranko
Reprinting *Strange Tales* #146-147

*Nick Fury and His Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.* #2 (April 1973) cover, by Steranko
Reprinting *Strange Tales* #148-149

*Nick Fury, Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D. Special Edition* #1 (December 1983) cover, by Steranko
Reprinting *Strange Tales* #168 and *Nick Fury, Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.* #1-2



In 1965, Stan Lee and Jack Kirby decided to turn their World War II sergeant into a secret agent. The original series proposal featured Nick Fury in "The Man Called D.E.A.T.H." but the title was found lacking (or perhaps likely to cause trouble with the Comics Code Authority) and so S.H.I.E.L.D. was born.




JIM STERANKO

Courtesy Scott Dunbier

When Steranko came to Marvel in 1966, looking to break in as an artist, Stan Lee gave him Kirby's scrapped "A Man Called D.E.A.T.H." pencil pages to ink as a tryout. It goes without saying that Steranko passed the test with flying colors.

Courtesy Scott Dunbier

The Comics Code censors found Steranko's rendering of Contessa Valentina Allegra de Fontaine's posterior too scandalous and requested art changes. The original, unaltered version is seen here in an original Marvel production photostat of *Strange Tales* #168, page 5, shot before the alterations were made.

STRANGE TALES 168
21
MEANWHILE, BACK AT SHIELD HEADQUARTERS...
Y'KNOW, LADY, YER JUST ABOUT THE MOST UNLIKELY SECRET AGENT I EVER SAW!
YES, I KNOW! BUT THAT'S WHAT MAKES ME A GOOD ONE... WOULDN'T YOU SAY?
HUH! UH...OH, YEAH! GUESS I WOULD! AW... YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN!
I SAW YA TEARIN' INTO THOSE BADDIES THE YELLOW CLAW HAD LINED UP!
BUT THERE I GO AGAIN... GABBIN' ABOUT 'IM LIKE HE WUZ A REAL MAN!
FUNNY THOUGH! NICK AINT BEEN THE SAME SINCE KINDA KEEPS TO HISSELF LATELY!
DO YOU SUPPOSE YOU'D BE THE SAME AFTER A TRIP TO HYPER SPACE?
YEAH, YER PROBABLY RIGHT! HE'S GOTTA...
UH-OH! THERE GOES OUR PRIORITY SIGNAL! LET'S GO, COUNTESS!
I HAD A FEELIN' FURY'D CALL US ON THAT BUSINESS WE WERE WATCHIN' ON THE MONITOR SCREEN!
DON'T LOOK LIKE MUCH'A ANYTHING TA ME, THOUGH! BUT LIKE THEY SAY... YA CAN'T JUDGE A BOOK!
OKAY... DUGAN'S READY FER ACTION! LET'S GET GOIN', LADY!
5

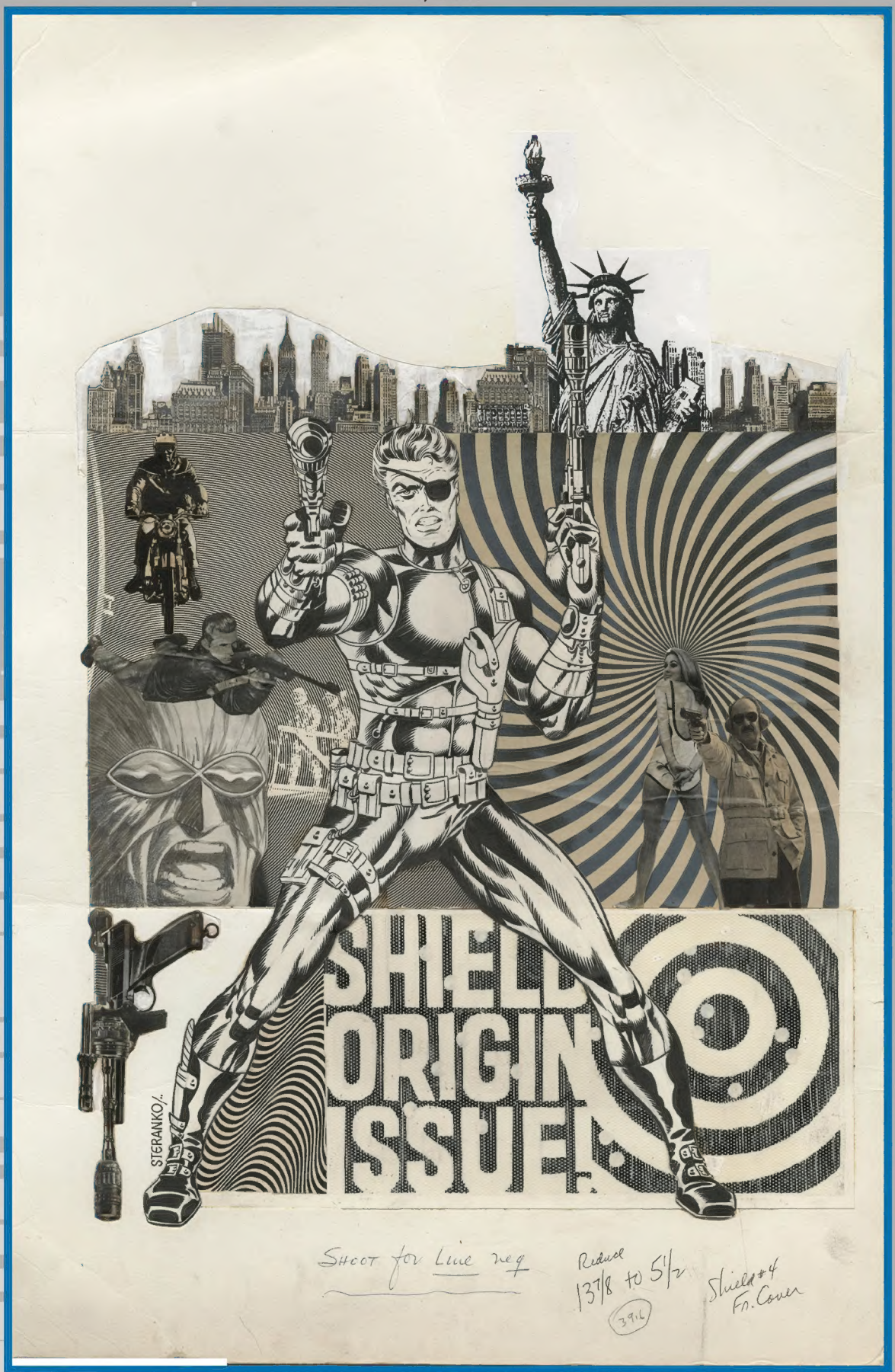
Steranko's *Nick Fury, Agent of S.H.I.E.L.D.* #2, page 5, was deemed too hot for print by the Comics Code. The industry censor demanded that Val's cleavage be removed in panel 1 and that the telephone in panel 9 be placed back on the hook. Val and Nick's embrace in panel 11 also had to go; however, the approved solution—a close-up of Fury's gun from panel 1—is arguably more explicit in metaphor than Steranko's original panel.

Courtesy Richard Martines

This cover concept for *Nick Fury, Agent of S.H.I.E.L.D.* #1 by Steranko was passed on for the spy chief's solo series debut, but made a comeback, along with Scorpio, for issue #5's "Whatever Happened to Scorpio?"

Courtesy HeritageAuctions.com

*Nick Fury, Agent of S.H.I.E.L.D.* #4 cover, original art
by Steranko




Courtesy Scott Dunbier

"MR. STERANKO TRANSFORMED THE GRIZZLED SGT. NICK FURY FROM WORLD WAR II AFTERTHOUGHT TO POSTMODERN SPY WITH NODS TO EXPRESSIONISM, SURREALISM, OP ART AND POP ART. IN THESE HYPERKINETIC, OVER-THE-TOP COMICS, IT'S PSYCHEDELIA THAT WINS THE COLD WAR." –DANA JENNINGS, NEWYORKTIMES.COM

# STERANKO IS... REVOLUTIONARY!

Rarely before and rarely since has comics seen a talent as innovative as Jim Steranko. Blending together influences from pop art to Salvador Dalí and Will Eisner to Wallace Wood, Steranko's groundbreaking style is an incomparable visual language.

Steranko is...revolutionary!

Marvel is proud to present Steranko's complete tenure on "Nick Fury, Agent of S.H.I.E.L.D." in a massive King-Size edition that showcases all its glory. These are the stories that defined Nick Fury as the spymaster operating in the shadows of the Marvel Universe. His awesome tech, his steamy romances, his larger-than-life action-adventure – Steranko was behind it all, breaking the rules and creating more than a few new ones too.

COLLECTING THE NICK FURY, AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D. STORIES FROM *STRANGE TALES* (1951) #151-168 AND *NICK FURY, AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D.* (1968) #1-3 & #5

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